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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Colombia

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Colombia was held at the 7th meeting, on 10 May 2018. The delegation of Colombia was headed by the Minister of the Interior, Guillermo Rivera Flores. At its 14th meeting, held on 15 May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Colombia.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Colombia: Australia, Panama and Qatar.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Colombia:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/COL/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/COL/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/COL/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Colombia through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation underscored the importance of participating in the third cycle of the universal periodic review to share the progress made by and the challenges facing his country. He thanked civil society organizations, the Ombudsman's Office, OHCHR and the United Nations agencies present in Colombia for their commitment to achieving peace and for their daily work.

6. Peace was the best way to ensure human rights, and the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace signed in 2016 was a milestone in that regard. Victims of the conflict had participated in the peace negotiations, and the agreement contained both gender and ethnic dimensions. Provision had been made for the release and subsequent care of child victims of the conflict. Dialogue was currently being held with the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army).

7. With the end of the conflict, the number of cases of kidnapping, disappearance, recruitment and displacement and the number of victims of anti-personnel mines had fallen. 2017 had been the year with the lowest homicide rate since 1975. Progress had also been made in terms of humanitarian demining; a third of municipalities had been declared mine-free.

8. The Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army) had laid down arms and some 12,000 former combatants had rejoined civil society. In addition, 69,000 families had joined the crop substitution programmes to replace illicit crops. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia had been included as a political party in the parliamentary elections of March 2018, in which 48 per cent of the electorate had participated, the largest level of participation in Colombian history. The status of the opposition had been approved, ensuring that all political opinions would be heard.

9. Attacks against human rights defenders and social leaders continued to be one of the greatest challenges facing the country. The Government rejected all acts of violence against those groups and recognized the importance of their work in the process of strengthening democracy and the rule of law. The Government was therefore working to consolidate its policy of prevention and protection, and had implemented the new Early Warning System, the Collective Protection Route, the National Commission of Security Guarantees and the Special Investigation Unit for the Dismantling of Criminal Organizations and Conduct within the Attorney General's Office. Nearly 4,000 social leaders and human rights defenders, 60 per cent of whom were in rural areas, were currently receiving protection through the National Prevention and Protection Programme.

10. Over the past eight years, 5 million people had been lifted out of poverty in Colombia, and 8 million children had been given access to free education in public schools. Colombia was committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. Colombia recognized the challenges it faced in terms of forced displacement, recruitment of children by illegal armed actors, collective reparation of victims, investigation and punishment of those responsible for human rights violations and violence against women. The State was committed to continuing to work to meet those challenges.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

12. During the interactive dialogue, 86 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

13. Turkey recalled the importance of the peace agreement as a road map to address human rights issues in a comprehensive way. It stressed that land issues were of utmost importance in tackling the root causes of violence.

14. Ukraine welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the priority given in the Strategic Plan for 2016–2020 of the Attorney General's Office to combating murder, sexual violence and domestic violence.

15. The United States of America raised concerns about extrajudicial killings, limited accountability for human rights violations and abuses, and attacks on Afrodescendent and indigenous leaders. It requested data on the prosecution of those responsible for the "false positive" killings.

16. Uruguay praised the progress achieved in the talks with Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and encouraged Colombia to prioritize the allocation of the technical, financial and human resources necessary to implement the peace agreement in accordance with the principles of transparency, participation and accountability.

17. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela called for the parties to comply with the peace agreement in order to put an end to a conflict that had caused thousands of deaths and had lasted for more than 50 years.

18. Zambia commended Colombia for its promotion and protection of human rights and its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

19. Algeria congratulated Colombia on its determination to build a sustainable and lasting peace through the 2016 peace agreement. Algeria welcomed the mainstreaming of human rights in trade issues and the measures taken to ensure due diligence in the economic sector.

20. Angola noted that, since its previous review in 2013, Colombia had bolstered its legislative framework in order to protect and guarantee the rights of all, in particular through legislation concerning human rights and humanitarian law.

21. Argentina commended Colombia for the peace agreement, the establishment of the Commission on Truth, Coexistence and Non-repetition, and its efforts to combat impunity.

22. Australia was concerned about the targeted killing and harassment of community leaders, human rights defenders and witnesses in criminal proceedings relating to human rights violations. It welcomed the establishment of the Land Restitution Unit.

23. Austria welcomed the signing of the peace agreement and the establishment of a Special Investigation Unit within the Attorney General's Office. It remained concerned about the failure to fully implement the rights to truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-repetition.

24. Azerbaijan commended Colombia for its accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the implementation of the National Strategy for Guaranteeing Human Rights 2014–2034.

25. Belgium praised the positive steps Colombia had taken to implement the recommendations it had accepted during the second review cycle, and encouraged it to take additional measures to strengthen the protection of human rights.

26. Bhutan commended Colombia for its comprehensive national report and welcomed the 2016 peace agreement and the National Strategy for Guaranteeing Human Rights 2014–2034.

27. The Plurinational State of Bolivia shared its concerns about the attacks on human rights defenders and social leaders. While welcoming the Victims and Land Restitution Act, it requested information about the collective reparation process.

28. Botswana noted the efforts made to implement the recommendations Colombia had accepted during the previous review cycle. It welcomed the National Development Plan 2014–2018 and the National Strategy for Guaranteeing Human Rights 2014–2034.

29. Brazil acknowledged the commitment of the authorities at the highest level to holding a transparent and constructive dialogue on human rights. It welcomed the adoption of the peace agreement, which included a broad human rights perspective.

30. Canada welcomed the progress made in implementing the 2016 peace agreement and on human rights. However, it continued to be concerned about high-level corruption and the considerable impact it had on the ability of citizens to fully enjoy their social, political and economic rights.

31. Chile inquired about the measures taken to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. It requested information about the steps taken by Colombia to protect human rights defenders and about how it planned to increase the effectiveness of those measures.

32. China congratulated Colombia on the progress made on the peace process and on its efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

33. The Congo welcomed the signing of the 2016 peace agreement and the development, in the wake of a participatory process, of a national strategy for the protection of human rights. It noted with satisfaction the commitment of Colombia to implementing relevant measures during the International Decade for People of African Descent.

34. Costa Rica wished Colombia success in the implementation of the peace agreement, particularly the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-repetition. It expressed concern about the increase in the incidence of killings of human rights defenders and community leaders.

35. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the adoption of several laws aimed at strengthening the protection of human rights. It congratulated Colombia for its commitment to making progress on the peace process and urged it to apply the peace agreement diligently.

36. Croatia welcomed the launching of the programme to prevent the recruitment and use of children and adolescents by armed groups and asked the Government to make sure that child soldiers were treated as victims.

37. Cuba highlighted the responsibility of the international community in guaranteeing that the peace agreement was upheld, and underlined the need to support the peace negotiations with the National Liberation Army.

38. Cyprus welcomed the signing of the peace agreement, which constituted a solid basis for addressing the structural human rights challenges faced by Colombia. It encouraged Colombia to intensify its efforts to address discrimination against women and persons with disabilities.

39. Czechia appreciated the efforts Colombia was making regarding several human rights, such as the launching of specialized programmes to prevent the forced recruitment of children into armed groups and steps taken to recognize the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

40. Denmark congratulated Colombia on the peace agreement and the positive steps it was taking towards reconciliation. Denmark highlighted the importance of the sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls.

41. Honduras welcomed the signing of the peace agreement and the negotiations between the Government and the National Liberation Army towards a lasting peace. It also welcomed the efforts being made to improve the living standards of Afro-Colombians, indigenous peoples and women.

42. Ecuador welcomed the efforts of Colombia to implement the recommendations received during the second review cycle and highlighted the inclusion of persons with disabilities in social programmes.

43. Egypt noted the efforts the Government had made since the signing of the peace agreement and the steps it had taken to incorporate human rights into the National Development Plan 2014–2034.

44. El Salvador congratulated Colombia on the adoption of the peace agreement and highlighted the establishment of the National Council for Peace, Reconciliation and Coexistence. It commended the efforts to include gender issues in post-conflict policies.

45. Equatorial Guinea welcomed the peace agreement, which had led to a substantial drop in indicators of violence, and the provisions for the protection of children. It also welcomed the adoption of the Children and Adolescents' Code.

46. Finland thanked Colombia for improving the human rights situation in the country and congratulated it on the peace agreement. Finland noted that there were challenges remaining in terms of the implementation of laws, including in relation to sexual and gender-based violence, and the full protection of human rights defenders.

47. The delegation of Colombia highlighted the implementation of the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-repetition. The System included the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, the Investigation and Indictment Unit, and an extrajudicial component constituted by the Special Unit for the Search for Persons deemed as missing in the context of and due to the armed conflict, and the Commission on Truth, Coexistence and Non-repetition. The System did not provide for amnesty for crimes against humanity, sexual violence or forced displacement.

48. Measures had been taken to reduce prison overcrowding and improve health care in prisons. In addition, steps had been taken to increase the use of house arrest, and to incorporate a differentiated approach to caring for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons who were deprived of their liberty.

49. Almost 3 million victims of the conflict had received some measure of reparation. Providing collective reparation to more than 600 ethnic and rural communities and social organizations remained a challenge. Some 89 per cent of victims had been displaced; almost 4 million of them had received humanitarian aid or assistance from the State, some 500,000 were no longer in a vulnerable situation, and 67,000 families had returned or relocated.

50. Since the end of the conflict, over 300,000 ha of land had been returned to their rightful owners. The judicial branch was working to establish the ownership of another

500,000 ha. Progress was being made to guarantee the land rights of Afro-Colombian communities and more than 50 indigenous peoples by formalizing and protecting ownership and returning over 2 million ha of land to them. Moreover, land titles of 4 million ha had been given to farmers, 53 per cent of whom were rural women.

51. Some 2,423 investigations were being conducted into deaths that had been illegitimately presented as casualties in combat ("false positive" killings), with 5,106 soldiers having been brought to trial, including 134 colonels. To date, 1,683 members of the armed forces had been convicted. Between 2016 and April 2018, the Attorney General's Office had received 261 reports of murders of human rights defenders, 41 per cent of which had been resolved. Progress had been made in terms of resolving cases of murder of trade unionists, journalists and ex-combatants of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army and their relatives. Progress had also been made in cases involving domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking.

52. As part of its institutional strengthening, the Attorney General's Office had increased its presence and citizens' access to justice in 151 municipalities. In addition, it had submitted a consolidated report to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace on cases of sexual violence in the context of the armed conflict. Regarding the use of children in the commission of crimes, more than 500 convictions had been processed. In the area of enforced disappearance, 8,990 bodies had been recovered, 4,296 of which had been duly identified and handed over to family members. The plan for the effective investigation and prosecution of civil third parties and State agents linked to illegal armed actors, including financing, had been implemented.

53. The armed forces and the police continued to work together to build and maintain a culture of respect for human rights through a new comprehensive policy on human rights and international humanitarian law. The policy included awareness-raising for State agents on the ethnic and cultural diversity of the population, and for legal advisers on police and military operations. There was also a sectoral policy with a gender focus within the armed forces.

54. France noted that the 2016 peace agreement addressed many of the recommendations Colombia had received in the previous review, and offered support to continue such efforts.

55. Gabon welcomed the signing of the 2016 peace agreement, the involvement of women in the negotiation of the agreement, and the integration of the gender perspective in the master plan for its implementation.

56. Georgia noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and encouraged Colombia to strengthen its national legal framework to improve the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

57. Germany appreciated the victim-centred and human rights-based approach of the final peace agreement between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army.

58. Ghana commended Colombia on its National Development Plan for 2014–2018 and the development of the National Strategy for Guaranteeing Human Rights 2014–2034. It also commended the key role played by women in the peace process.

59. Guyana congratulated Colombia on the successful signing of the 2016 peace agreement. It noted with appreciation the Government's commitment to promoting human rights-based programmes across all sectors.

60. Haiti noted the progress made by Colombia since the previous review cycle and highlighted the fact that the signing of the 2016 peace agreement constituted a guarantee for the effective enjoyment of human rights.

61. The Holy See emphasized the importance of the peace agreement and the need to work towards reintegrating former combatants, especially children, and providing genuine justice and reparation to all victims.

62. The Dominican Republic congratulated Colombia on the signing of the peace agreement.

63. Iceland congratulated Colombia on the signing of the peace agreement, which had brought an end to over five decades of armed conflict. It welcomed the decisions to approve marriage equality and adoption by same-sex couples.

64. India appreciated the efforts of Colombia to pursue peacebuilding and to develop a framework plan for implementing the peace agreement, which would significantly improve peace, security, human rights and equitable justice for all.

65. Indonesia welcomed the ongoing legal reforms and commended Colombia for several developments introduced since the second review cycle, such as the National Development Plan and the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

66. Iraq welcomed the steps the Government had taken to develop comprehensive policies and an institutional system for the promotion and protection of human rights.

67. Ireland acknowledged the landmark achievement of the peace agreement. However, it expressed concern about the troubling increase in attacks on human rights defenders and social leaders, and urged Colombia to strengthen the rule of law.

68. Italy expressed particular appreciation for the inclusion in the National Development Plan 2014–2018 of guidelines and strategies for consolidating peace and equity and achieving better quality education.

69. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the commitment of Colombia to a 20-year National Strategy for Guaranteeing Human Rights for 2014–2034 and hailed the adoption of the National Public Policy on Gender Equity for Women.

70. Lebanon congratulated Colombia on the conclusion of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace. That guaranteed effective implementation of human rights, especially for victims of the conflict.

71. Malaysia urged the Government to continue to effectively implement the peace agreement. It appreciated women's active involvement in the peace process and welcomed the establishment of a subcommittee on gender.

72. Maldives welcomed the Government's efforts to cooperate with civil society for the effective promotion and protection of human rights. It commended the Government for signing the final agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army.

73. Mexico welcomed the tireless efforts of Colombia to promote peace and wished it every success in implementing the agreement signed with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. It commended Colombia on accepting a large influx of Venezuelan immigrants.

74. Montenegro acknowledged the Government's ongoing efforts to protect human rights defenders, but was concerned at the persistent widespread impunity for such attacks. It therefore called on the Government to strengthen the protection afforded to human rights defenders.

75. Morocco welcomed the new comprehensive policy for human rights and international humanitarian law and the related monitoring mechanism. It appreciated the fact that many women had participated in the peace process.

76. Myanmar appreciated the efforts of Colombia to reinforce humanitarian demining and promote mine risk awareness. Myanmar urged Colombia to further promote mine clearance by cooperating with humanitarian demining organizations and the United Nations Mine Action Service.

77. Namibia welcomed recent human rights initiatives, notably the signing and implementation of the peace agreement, the National Strategy for Guaranteeing Human Rights 2014–2034 and the National Plan on Business and Human Rights.

78. Nepal congratulated Colombia on the historic peace agreement signed in 2016. It appreciated the continuous efforts of Colombia to protect human rights through various measures, particularly the National Strategy for Guaranteeing Human Rights.

79. The Netherlands congratulated Colombia on the successful demobilization and disarmament of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which had helped end the decades-long armed conflict. However, the peace agreement was ambitious, and many challenges were hampering its full implementation.

80. The Niger congratulated the Government on its efforts to reach a peace agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, making it possible to end a long-running conflict and creating new momentum for peace and stability.

81. Nigeria welcomed the adoption by Colombia of the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the National Public Policy on Gender Equity for Women and the Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee Women a Life Free from Violence.

82. Norway commended the efforts of the Government to establish peace with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the National Liberation Army, which represented a unique opportunity to strengthen the human rights situation in Colombia.

83. Paraguay stated that the signing and progressive implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace allowed Colombia to send a message of peace and reconciliation to the Human Rights Council and the world.

84. The delegation of Colombia highlighted the decisions of the Constitutional Court approving marriage equality and adoption by same-sex couples. The State was committed to non-regression in the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights, and a policy was in place guaranteeing the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. Measures were also being taken to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Moreover, ethnic communities had been guaranteed the right to prior consultation. Furthermore, the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons had been adopted.

85. The delegation stated that 30 per cent of public spending had been allocated to the education and health of 15 million children and adolescents. The school dropout rate had fallen to 3 per cent. Some 1.9 million children between the ages of 0 and 5 years old had been given access to nutrition, education and health services, including vaccinations. About 90 per cent of children in urban and rural areas had received the full complement of vaccinations. While the rate of chronic malnutrition among children under 5 years old had fallen, the alarming number of child deaths as a result of malnutrition in La Guajira was a major challenge that Colombia was working to address. The rate of teenage pregnancy had fallen; it currently stood at 17 per cent.

86. Policies had been adopted for the eradication of child labour and the prevention of recruitment of children by illegal armed groups. In addition, Colombia had adopted a national policy on decent work. During the reporting period, 3.5 million people had found employment, 74 per cent of them in the formal sector. The rate of unemployment among women had fallen and the number of attacks against trade unionists had decreased.

87. The delegation stressed the decisive role that women had played in the negotiation process with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and in the implementation of the peace agreement. The president of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace was a woman, and 53 per cent of magistrates were women. The Special Unit for the Search for Persons deemed as missing in the context of and due to the armed conflict was also led by a woman. The National Public Policy on Gender Equity for Women and the Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee Women a Life Free from Violence were being implemented. Moreover, measures to improve access to justice for women victims of sexual violence had been strengthened, femicide had been defined as a specific offence, and the Protocol for Comprehensive Health Care for Victims of Sexual Violence was being implemented.

88. The "More Women, More Democracy" campaign had resulted in an increase in the number of women standing for election from 20 to 34 per cent between 2011 and 2018; the number of women in Congress had risen from 14 to 22 per cent between 2010 and 2018. In

2017, women occupied 43 per cent of management positions in State entities. Some 8.6 per cent of the armed forces were women.

89. The human rights policy had been developed with the participation of some 9,000 organizations in 2013. Local governments had incorporated actions in their development plans and more than 50 per cent of those plans had been developed using a human rights-based approach.

90. Colombia had a National Plan on Business and Human Rights, which was in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework. Progress was currently made in the design of the second phase of the National Plan.

91. Based on the peace agreement and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, Colombia was working on the formulation of the National Human Rights Action Plan, together with civil society. One of the aspects that had yet to be addressed was follow-up to international human rights recommendations. The national information system for monitoring human rights situations had been strengthened with the addition of 40 social, government and academic observatories.

92. A policy had been adopted on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Government had managed to reduce multidimensional poverty by 13.4 per cent between 2010 and 2017 and the number of Colombians living in extreme poverty had been halved over seven years. In 2017, some 49 per cent of total budget spending had been aimed at reducing poverty.

93. Since 2015, the education sector had ranked first in terms of national budget allocation. As at March 2018, some 95 per cent of the population was covered by health system affiliation. Although achievements had been made in terms of reducing maternal mortality, there was a disparity between urban and rural areas, which mostly affected indigenous and Afrodescendent communities. In order to improve quality of life, 1.5 million homes had been built, half of which had been provided free of charge or subsidized.

94. Regulation for environmental protection had been made more rigorous. The current Government had delimited 30 of the country's 37 highland areas; 10 ecosystems had been included in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance and almost 300,000 km² of land had been declared protected areas (more than 20 per cent of the national territory). The Government was in the process of ratifying the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and progress was being made on the adoption of regional instruments, such as the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

95. Peru highlighted the efforts made by Colombia to address organized crime in rural areas where the former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia used to exert its influence. Peru also noted the measures being taken to uphold the rule of law, ensure respect for human rights and promote access to land in rural areas.

96. The Philippines congratulated Colombia on its historic achievement in forging the peace agreement and on its successful integration of human rights in its National Development Plan 2014–2018.

97. Poland acknowledged the efforts of Colombia to comply with the recommendations it had accepted in 2013, particularly those concerning the protection of women and children.

98. Portugal commended the Government for its efforts to advance the peace process and its positive impact on the enjoyment of human rights in the country.

99. Qatar commended the implementation of structural changes and legal reforms in Colombia in the field of human rights, such as the National Strategy for Guaranteeing Human Rights 2014–2034.

100. The Republic of Korea appreciated the cooperation of Colombia with international and regional human rights bodies, its incorporation of a gender perspective in its National Development Plan, and its formulation of a National Plan on Business and Human Rights.

101. Romania congratulated Colombia for the positive developments since the second review cycle and for the cooperation with civil society and the international community to consolidate its human rights policies.

102. The Russian Federation stated that the ceasefire allowed for the improvement of humanitarian situations in the region. However, the situation remained complicated, particularly in the light of the number of displaced persons.

103. Senegal welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons 2016–2018, the establishment of the National Disability Council and the accession of Colombia to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

104. Serbia welcomed the Government's determination to submit regular reports to the United Nations human rights bodies and encouraged the authorities to continue to combat human trafficking.

105. Singapore welcomed efforts to reintegrate former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia members into society and measures such as the establishment of the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-repetition. It acknowledged the critical roles women had played in the peace process.

106. Slovenia welcomed the increase in enrolment in basic schooling and the fall in the dropout rate in Colombia. However, it was concerned about the significant gaps in education coverage, mostly affecting the most vulnerable groups in society.

107. Spain noted that Colombia had made progress in terms of women's rights by implementing relevant plans and strategies, and by actively participating in the women and peace and security agenda.

108. Sri Lanka commended Colombia for strengthening its humanitarian demining policy to support mine victims through the provision of health care, physical rehabilitation, reparation measures and measures to educate people on mine risks.

109. The State of Palestine congratulated Colombia for signing the historic peace agreement with the People's Alternative Revolutionary Force, which would lead to internal peace and prosperity for the Colombian people.

110. Sweden made recommendations and wished Colombia every success in the current review and in implementing the recommendations.

111. Switzerland welcomed the progress accomplished in the peace process, while noting that the participation of numerous groups in the decisions of the State remained insufficient.

112. Thailand acknowledged the efforts of Colombia to eliminate gender-based violence and the reduction in the maternal and infant mortality rates, but noted that the infant mortality rate remained high among indigenous groups.

113. Togo appreciated the improvement of the institutional and legislative framework to protect human rights and encouraged Colombia to continue its efforts to implement measures for land restitution and compensation procedures for indigenous and Afro-Colombian people.

114. Tunisia commended the steps taken to develop a human rights system, including the improvement of the legislative and institutional framework, and valued the efforts made in the field of the peace agreement.

115. The United Kingdom expressed concern about violence against human rights defenders and the significant level of impunity in cases of conflict-related sexual violence, while recognizing the efforts made by Colombia to tackle those challenges.

116. Afghanistan said that the outcomes of the peace process constituted a good practice in terms of bringing about peace and in terms of justice, truth, reparation and the guarantees of non-repetition. It stressed the importance of justice for a lasting peace process.

117. The delegation stated that Colombia had ratified the core international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In addition, the country continued to make contributions to the human rights protection system. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation would be visiting Colombia in 2019.

118. The head of the delegation recognized the importance of international cooperation for the strengthening of human rights, and reiterated his country's commitment to facing challenges. Colombia was willing to share good practices in the areas of business and human rights, the national information system on human rights and international humanitarian law and on peacebuilding.

119. He stressed the importance of the universal periodic review for the improvement and respect of human rights. He thanked the States that had participated in the interactive dialogue and had acknowledged the progress Colombia had made, highlighted the importance of the peace agreement and made constructive recommendations for the consolidation of a culture of human rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

120. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Colombia and enjoy the support of Colombia:**

120.1 **Continue bringing national human rights legislation into line with international human rights standards (Azerbaijan);**

120.2 **Commit the necessary legal, institutional and financial resources to implement the peace agreement without delay in order to achieve sustainable peace (Australia);**

120.3 **Include measures aimed at ensuring increasing efficiency and accountability of public service in its national development agency (Azerbaijan);**

120.4 **Continue its efforts to address gaps in the implementation of relevant policies and legislation in promoting and protecting human rights (Bhutan);**

120.5 **Strengthen the role of the national reporting and follow-up mechanism (Egypt);**

120.6 **Strengthen the follow-up mechanism in the national human rights framework in order to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations from the universal periodic review and other mechanisms (Paraguay);**

120.7 **Continue to progressively implement the provisions of the National Strategy for Guaranteeing Human Rights (Lebanon);**

120.8 **Continue to implement universal periodic review recommendations through the inclusive participation of all stakeholders, inter alia, the national human rights institution and civil society (Myanmar);**

120.9 **Continue peacebuilding efforts by taking all stakeholders on board (Nepal);**

120.10 **Continue to mobilize resources and seek the necessary assistance to enhance its capacity to guarantee the promotion and protection of human rights (Nigeria);**

120.11 **Increase transparency in its government procurement procedures, through for example, public tenders (Republic of Korea);**

120.12 **Employ the ongoing dialogue process with the National Liberation Army guerrilla as an opportunity to insist on the necessity of concluding a**

humanitarian accord to protect the civilian population in places of conflict (Austria);

120.13 **Allocate appropriate funds in the national budget, and maintain adequate institutions to put gender equality at the centre of development and peacebuilding efforts (Canada);**

120.14 **Continue to implement the peace agreement with particular focus on transitional justice, truth and reconciliation, the rights of victims, the needs of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities and the reintegration of former combatants (Canada);**

120.15 **Continue the dialogue process with the National Liberation Army for a successful political outcome from the conflict, with special consideration for the situation of children and adolescents (Chile);**

120.16 **Continue to protect and promote human rights, including within the framework of the peace agreement (Egypt);**

120.17 **Ensure the effective implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, prioritizing human, technical and financial resources as necessary, in strict application of the principles of transparency, participation and accountability (Uruguay);**

120.18 **Continue to redouble efforts to achieve the full implementation of the peace agreement (Peru);**

120.19 **Continue implementing actions to contribute to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and exclusion (Cuba);**

120.20 **Advance the implementation of public policies that strengthen the right to equality and non-discrimination, especially among vulnerable groups (Dominican Republic);**

120.21 **Redouble efforts to combat racial discrimination, especially against Afrodescendent populations (Nigeria);**

120.22 **Invest additional efforts in fighting all forms of discrimination, in particular against children, women, Afro-Colombians and representatives of indigenous peoples (Serbia);**

120.23 **Take further steps and effectively implement the existing measures aimed at protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons from discrimination and violence (Czechia);**

120.24 **Continue and step up efforts to combat stereotypes regarding, and prejudice against, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Iceland);**

120.25 **Establish mechanisms to obtain disaggregated data on ethnicity, disability, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, making it possible to design effective public policies that are non-discriminatory and meet the needs of marginalized population groups (Mexico);**

120.26 **Ensure that the design and implementation of development plans are consistent with popular and prior consultations and are in line with international standards (Mexico);**

120.27 **Develop alternative penal procedures to control prison overcrowding (Turkey);**

120.28 **Strengthen prison policies and conditions of detention (Peru);**

120.29 **Adopt effective measures to reduce prison overcrowding in accordance with international norms (Algeria);**

120.30 **Strengthen efforts to protect activists and investigate alleged human rights violations and abuses, including by implementing guidelines set out in the Attorney General's directive 002/2017 (Australia);**

120.31 **Ensure effective justice for all survivors of sexual violence in armed conflict, committed by legal and illegal armed actors (Croatia);**

120.32 **Review and strengthen mechanisms for effective information sharing to ensure judicial investigations of killings, threats and intimidation faced by individuals in the peace process (Denmark);**

120.33 **Promptly hold accountable those responsible for attacks on human rights defenders and members of vulnerable groups (United States of America);**

120.34 **Intensify efforts to investigate and prosecute all those responsible for extrajudicial killings, including commanders (United States of America);**

120.35 **Continue the internal institutional processes in the light of the democratic process, transitional justice and respect for human rights (El Salvador);**

120.36 **Guarantee continuity in the application of the Victims and Land Restitution Act, as well as the measures of comprehensive reparation for the victims of the internal armed conflict (El Salvador);**

120.37 **Ensure that judicial authorities conduct, in accordance with international law standards, full, prompt and impartial criminal investigations and prosecutions of crimes under international law and human rights abuses against human rights defenders (Finland);**

120.38 **Combat impunity for the crimes committed during the conflict by guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary (France);**

120.39 **Improve the effectiveness of the procedures for the restitution of lands despoiled during the conflict by increasing the resources of the competent institutions (France);**

120.40 **Take effective measures to fight the widespread impunity and especially investigate and prosecute human rights violations and infractions of international humanitarian law by, inter alia, increasing the number of judicial police officers, prosecutors and judges dealing with such crimes (Germany);**

120.41 **Ensure that all perpetrators of attacks and threats against human rights defenders are brought to justice (Montenegro);**

120.42 **Continue to guarantee sufficient funding for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, the Commission on Truth, Coexistence and Non-repetition and the Special Unit for the Search for Persons deemed as missing in the context of and due to the armed conflict, for the duration of their mandates, and guarantee the conditions that enable them to operate independently (Netherlands);**

120.43 **Implement the Transitional Justice System, the Commission on Truth, Coexistence and Non-repetition and the Special Unit for the Search for Persons deemed as missing in the context of and due to the armed conflict, as agreed in the peace agreement (Norway);**

120.44 **Ensure access to justice for victims of the armed conflict, particularly women and indigenous people, and guarantee their right to truth and comprehensive reparation (Philippines);**

120.45 **Increase efforts to implement the provisions on transitional justice in the peace agreement with the People's Alternative Revolutionary Force, especially on the establishment of a functional special court for peace (Republic of Korea);**

120.46 **Continue to make progress in ensuring that human rights violations are investigated, judged and punished by using criminal procedures to avoid**

impunity and to ensure the application of international law and international humanitarian law principles (Spain);

120.47 **Introduce alternative methods to detention to reduce prison occupancy rates and step up efforts to implement the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules (Thailand);**

120.48 **Continue substantial efforts to consolidate the policy of peace, the entrenchment of democracy and the rule of law, an indispensable factor for the exercise and respect of human rights (Togo);**

120.49 **Enhance relevant investigative and victim support expertise in the judicial system to increase prosecutions in cases of conflict-related sexual violence and reduce the high impunity rate for such cases (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

120.50 **Take further steps to investigate and duly punish human rights violators (Argentina);**

120.51 **Redouble efforts to investigate threats and acts of violence against human rights defenders and punish perpetrators of such acts (Argentina);**

120.52 **Take further measures to guarantee reparations for child victims of the conflict and ensure access to justice for victims of sexual violence, including indigenous and Afro-Colombian women, and women living in rural areas (Australia);**

120.53 **Improve its land restitution processes in order to provide timely justice for victims, as previously recommended (Australia);**

120.54 **Continue efforts to improve the rehabilitation and reintegration of landmine victims as well as to promote awareness programmes for mine risk (Myanmar);**

120.55 **Ensure that human rights defenders are protected while carrying out their important work and the judicial authorities conduct full and impartial criminal investigations so that perpetrators are held accountable (Austria);**

120.56 **Recognize and actively support the work of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, with specific measures to put an end to impunity for the violence committed against them and ensure the effective implementation of the existing protection mechanisms (Belgium);**

120.57 **Strengthen the programme on prevention and protection that includes victims of armed conflicts, human rights defenders, journalists, trade union leaders, land claimants and political leaders (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

120.58 **Take further actions to improve the prevention of, and response to, threats, attacks and killings of human rights defenders and social leaders, through strengthening security, timely investigations and addressing impunity (Canada);**

120.59 **Take effective measures to combat the killing of human rights defenders and bring the perpetrators to justice (Congo);**

120.60 **Strengthen the existing mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders, focusing on rural areas and territories where illicit economies flourish (Costa Rica);**

120.61 **Take the necessary measures to increase the political participation of women, in particular in legislative bodies (Costa Rica);**

120.62 **Step up efforts to prevent killings and attacks on human rights defenders and ensure full investigation of these crimes (Czechia);**

120.63 **Work with civil society to strengthen protection for members of vulnerable communities by implementing effective collective protection**

schemes tailored to ethnicity, gender and regional circumstances (United States of America);

120.64 **Protect, in collaboration with civil society, human rights defenders (France);**

120.65 **Ensure that activists, human rights defenders and other social and community leaders, especially in rural areas, are equally and effectively protected also in view of the current challenges facing the implementation of the final peace accord, by, inter alia, ensuring an effective presence of government institutions in all areas of the country (Germany);**

120.66 **Consider establishing a protection programme for women rights defenders, taking into account their needs and realities from a gender-differentiated perspective, and allocate adequate financial and human resources for its implementation (Ghana);**

120.67 **Ensure the continuation of current measures to safeguard the work of human rights defenders and the ongoing judicial investigations into the murders of human rights defenders (Uruguay);**

120.68 **Continue to promote actions, through the National Reincorporation Council, to consolidate the efforts of reintegration and political participation (Dominican Republic);**

120.69 **Continue efforts to strengthen the institutional framework to protect and guarantee the work of defenders and social leaders (Dominican Republic);**

120.70 **Take all measures to protect human rights defenders and ensure that perpetrators of threats and attacks are brought to justice (Ireland);**

120.71 **Take steps to ensure the effective protection of human rights defenders and of persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples (Italy);**

120.72 **Take further measures to prevent systematic violence against local leaders and human rights defenders, improve individual and collective protection of those at risk, and focus on investigating and prosecuting the intellectual authors of the threats and killings (Netherlands);**

120.73 **Prevent and investigate all attacks against human rights defenders and community leaders, including trade unionists, indigenous leaders and environmentalist defenders, and bring those responsible to justice (Norway);**

120.74 **Give greater consideration to human rights defenders, including female defenders and youth-led organizations engaged in the defence and promotion of human rights (Poland);**

120.75 **Effectively ensure the safety of human rights defenders, including by conducting detailed investigations into the attacks against them (Republic of Korea);**

120.76 **Reinforce measures to protect human rights defenders and to fight impunity for attacks against human rights defenders (Slovenia);**

120.77 **Ensure that human rights defenders are able to carry out their work free from intimidation, threats, harassment and attacks and guarantee their safety, especially those working in rural conflict-prone areas (Sweden);**

120.78 **Advance in the recognition and protection of human rights defenders, avoiding their criminalization and fighting impunity (Spain);**

120.79 **Fully implement the existing law pertaining to women's participation in elections (Sweden);**

120.80 **Develop in a participatory manner differentiated measures for collective protection in relation to the communities concerned (Switzerland);**

120.81 Implement a comprehensive protection system for human rights defenders, especially for Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities, backed by public statements that promote the role of human rights defenders (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

120.82 Ensure the effective participation of women in the implementation of the peace agreement, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (Ukraine);

120.83 Ensure the participation of women in the implementation process of the contents the peace agreement (Afghanistan);

120.84 Intensify efforts to address more systematically human rights violations related to drug trafficking and organized crime (Cyprus);

120.85 Pursue efforts to implement legal and policy measures on trafficking, labour and exploitation of children (Gabon);

120.86 Continue to implement measures to counter trafficking in persons and other forms of modern slavery (Holy See);

120.87 Strengthen the implementation of preventive measures and capacity-building, as stipulated in its National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons 2016–2018 (Indonesia);

120.88 Intensify efforts to reduce trafficking in persons (Iraq);

120.89 Continue efforts to enhance international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination to prevent trafficking in persons through information exchange aimed at prosecuting traffickers (Maldives);

120.90 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking (Morocco);

120.91 Intensify its efforts through bilateral, regional and international cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination to prevent human trafficking by exchanging information and harmonizing procedures to prosecute traffickers (Algeria);

120.92 Enhance cooperation at the regional and multilateral levels to address trafficking in persons (Guyana);

120.93 Fight more effectively against trafficking in children and Afro-Colombian people (Senegal);

120.94 Step up the actions taken to combat trafficking in persons, especially women (Angola);

120.95 Continue the efforts to combat trafficking in human beings (Tunisia);

120.96 Increase training and capacity to deliver the national action plan on human trafficking, specifically techniques to identify patterns in cases of children and women victims which lead to investigation and prosecution of the responsible criminal groups (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

120.97 Continue efforts aimed at eliminating child labour (Georgia);

120.98 Promote equal employment opportunities between men and women and reduce the wage gap between them (Iraq);

120.99 Continue to promote economic and social sustainable development, eradicate poverty and raise people's living standard (China);

120.100 Continue to invest in, and expand the coverage of, poverty reduction programmes to cover the most vulnerable groups, including older persons (Singapore);

120.101 **Continue to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations, especially in areas of chronic insecurity with pockets of extreme poverty (France);**

120.102 **Continue taking positive measures to better protect people's rights to education, health, employment and others (China);**

120.103 **Pursue social reforms to reduce the gap between urban and rural areas (Gabon);**

120.104 **Strengthen efforts at addressing the situation of food insecurity, particularly in the Atlantic and Pacific Regions (Guyana);**

120.105 **Make maximum effort to ensure the access of the population of regions in complicated internal political situations to justice, health and education (Russian Federation);**

120.106 **Implement and strengthen programmes to reduce maternal mortality, with emphasis on the rural population, indigenous peoples and people of African descent (Brazil);**

120.107 **Continue to take concrete measures to reduce the high rates of maternal and infant mortality by improving access to quality health services (Sri Lanka);**

120.108 **Allocate additional human and financial resources to achieve goals for the reduction of maternal mortality, especially in conflict-torn rural areas, with due attention given to indigenous women (Honduras);**

120.109 **Improve access to health services with a view to reducing the infant mortality rate, particularly among indigenous groups, and to ensure vaccination on schedule for children (Thailand);**

120.110 **Redouble efforts to provide access to health care in rural areas, especially areas with indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations (Honduras);**

120.111 **Ensure that women and adolescents have access to sexual education and free and friendly reproductive health services (Honduras);**

120.112 **Strengthen health information services, particularly with regard to sexual and reproductive health, and ensure that they are accessible to young people and persons with disabilities (Mexico);**

120.113 **Guarantee universal access to health and education services for adolescents and children of both sexes (State of Palestine);**

120.114 **Guarantee full access to safe abortion, within the existing legal framework, in all regions of the country (Denmark);**

120.115 **Ensure universal access to health services for adolescent girls and boys (Ghana);**

120.116 **Ensure the implementation of the resolution of the Ministry of Health, based on a dialogue with civil society and persons with disabilities, to guarantee appropriate and dignified access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls with disabilities (Uruguay);**

120.117 **Provide access to basic health care, especially in rural areas, so as to reduce maternal and infant mortality (Holy See);**

120.118 **Strengthen cultural development to seek the social transformation and cultural changes that the country requires in order to advance in national reconciliation (Cuba);**

120.119 **In follow up to the recommendations in paragraphs 116.28 and 116.111 of the report from the second cycle (A/HRC/24/6), increase investments in the field of public education for Afrodescendent minorities (Haiti);**

120.120 **Improve access to, and the quality of, education for children, especially for those living in rural areas and those belonging to minorities (Holy See);**

120.121 **Continue the ongoing efforts to establish and strengthen the education plan in the field of human rights (Qatar);**

120.122 **Further strengthen efforts to enhance education to improve literacy rates (Sri Lanka);**

120.123 **Redouble efforts to eliminate structural discrimination against women in society via a global strategy with concrete, effective measures to reduce discriminatory stereotypes (Honduras);**

120.124 **Continue efforts to achieve equality and prevent discrimination against women and strengthen the legal framework for their protection (Lebanon);**

120.125 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women (Morocco);**

120.126 **Intensify efforts to improve the rights of women in all aspects of life by effectively addressing deep-rooted gender stereotypes as well as sexual and gender-based violence (Namibia);**

120.127 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination against women and to protect women against all forms of violence (Tunisia);**

120.128 **Redouble efforts to ensure in practice, progress towards gender equality as enshrined in legislation (Uruguay);**

120.129 **Strengthen its legislative and institutional framework to effectively combat sexual and gender-based violence (Côte d'Ivoire);**

120.130 **Combat impunity in cases of violence against women and strengthen the effective implementation of the existing policies in this field, especially regarding access to justice and health care (Belgium);**

120.131 **Step up efforts to protect women's rights by all actors in situations of conflict, including taking effective measures to address the prevalence of sexual violence against women and girls, particularly rape (Botswana);**

120.132 **Pay special attention to the most vulnerable parts of the population, in particular, women and children who suffered most from the conflict (Ukraine);**

120.133 **Continue the fight against gender-based discrimination and violence, improve the mechanism of prevention of victims (Czechia);**

120.134 **Strengthen administrative, legislative and judicial mechanisms to ensure women's right to live free from violence and discrimination, in accordance with international human rights standards (Finland);**

120.135 **Better combat sexual and gender-based violence and ensure access to justice for victims (France);**

120.136 **Step up efforts to further promote women's rights and prevent sexual violence (Georgia);**

120.137 **Ensure that the voices of women victims of sexual violence are heard and that they can participate under equal conditions in all the implementation of the peace agreement (Iceland);**

120.138 **Strengthen administrative, legislative and judicial mechanisms to ensure women's right to be free from violence and discrimination, in accordance with international human rights standards (Iceland);**

120.139 **Intensify efforts to address violence against women and continue to work to ensure full application of the laws against the perpetrators of such violence (Ireland);**

120.140 **Step up efforts to prevent sexual violence against women and children and strengthen measures for the rehabilitation of boys and girls affected by armed conflict (Italy);**

120.141 **Make progress in the prevention and eradication of the different forms of violence against women and children (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

120.142 **Continue to tackle sexual violence against women to ensure protection of women's rights (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

120.143 **Continue taking effective measures to prevent sexual violence against women, and ensure that all cases of sexual violence are investigated and perpetrators are brought to justice in a timely manner and victims are provided with support, including medical and psychosocial services (Malaysia);**

120.144 **Strengthen measures to prevent and punish domestic violence and violence against women, including by improving the investigation, prosecution and prevention of rape and sexual violence against girls (Norway);**

120.145 **Continue its efforts to implement legal protection measures for women victims of all forms of violence and to ensure that their voices, especially in cases of sexual violence, are heard (Poland);**

120.146 **Further strengthen its legal framework to protect women's rights, in particular to combat sexual violence and domestic violence (Singapore);**

120.147 **Strengthen the mechanisms to guarantee the right of women to live a life free of violence and discrimination and ensure the application of the gender approach in the implementation of peace agreements (Spain);**

120.148 **Fight impunity and prosecute those responsible for violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, against women and girls (Sweden);**

120.149 **Continue measures to effectively combat sexual and gender-based violence (Nepal);**

120.150 **Continue assistance and promotion on women's empowerment in both the public and private sectors (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

120.151 **Ensure the real and effective participation of women in the implementation of the peace agreement (State of Palestine);**

120.152 **Continue its efforts to effectively apply the Children and Adolescents' Code (Equatorial Guinea);**

120.153 **Continue to implement the measures aimed at developing and strengthening the institutional framework with a view to protecting and ensuring the rights of children (Romania);**

120.154 **Ensure that the rights of children and adolescents, in particular those who have been victims of forced recruitment and used by illegal armed groups, are fully protected and that their special vulnerability is taken into account during their reincorporation into civil society (Austria);**

120.155 **Strengthen targeted rehabilitation and reinsertion programmes for demobilized children and adolescents from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, in line with international standards and the principles provided for in the peace accord (Belgium);**

120.156 **Strengthen programmes aimed at processing the cases of girls recruited by armed groups who have been victims of sexual or gender-based violence (Costa Rica);**

120.157 **Take further measures to protect and safeguard all rights of children (Namibia);**

120.158 **Formulate a national plan to address violence against children that will include aspects of prevention, protection and reparations and that will aim at strengthening families (Poland);**

120.159 **Continue to adopt all measures to ensure that the Children and Adolescent's Code is effectively implemented (Portugal);**

120.160 **Continue the efforts to protect children from sexual exploitation (Tunisia);**

120.161 **Intensify efforts to end the recruitment of children and adolescents by illegal armed groups and to ensure the reintegration and rehabilitation of demobilized children (France);**

120.162 **Intensify efforts to counter the practice of forced recruitment of children (Italy);**

120.163 **Continue to strengthen efforts to prevent the recruitment and exploitation of children and provide them with all forms of support and care and assistance (Lebanon);**

120.164 **Continue to give priority to the rights of the child in all areas of the peace agreement's implementation (Qatar);**

120.165 **Improve the treatment provided to mine victims, especially children anó adolescents (Angola);**

120.166 **Redouble efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against minorities and indigenous peoples (Congo);**

120.167 **Strengthen measures to combat more effectively discrimination against people of African descent and indigenous people (Senegal);**

120.168 **Take and implement further measures to protect minority groups, including indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples, against racial and other discrimination (Namibia);**

120.169 **Combat discrimination against Afro-Colombians and indigenous people, and against persons with disabilities, especially women and children (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

120.170 **Continue the process of restitution of land and territorial rights to the indigenous communities, peasants and other people working in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

120.171 **Provide adequate funding, in consultation with the communities concerned, to ensure the full implementation of the ethnic chapter of the 2016 peace agreement (Haiti);**

120.172 **Take all necessary measures to protect and assist Afro-Colombian authorities and organizations in the advancement of their collective demands in relation to the restitution of their lands (Haiti);**

120.173 **Ensure that indigenous and rural communities can express their free and informed consent prior to any measure that may affect their lives and their ancestral land (Holy See);**

120.174 **Continue strengthening the mechanisms for prior consultation with indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples, as well as popular consultations, in the light of the peace agreement (Peru);**

120.175 **Guarantee timely access to justice for indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombians and Romani people, as well as redouble efforts to ensure the full participation of the Afro-Colombians in institutions and decision-making (State of Palestine);**

120.176 **Review mechanisms enabling effective participation in decisions of the State, particularly for indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities (Switzerland);**

120.177 **Expedite the adoption of implementing regulations regarding the rights of persons with disabilities (Indonesia);**

120.178 **Further promote the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, particularly in the core sectors (Niger);**

120.179 **Harmonize legislation to fully respect the rights of persons with disabilities, especially the right to health (Peru);**

120.180 **Take the necessary action to ensure the enrolment of persons with disabilities at all levels of education (Afghanistan);**

120.181 **Continue making every effort to ensure the safe, dignified and sustainable return of displaced persons to their homes (Azerbaijan);**

120.182 **Increase its efforts to protect and safeguard the human rights of the civilian population in border areas, within the framework of international cooperation (Ecuador);**

120.183 **Intensify the government presence in the rural areas whose communities are victims of abuses, such as forced displacement, as well as targets of violence perpetrated by criminal organizations (Italy).**

121. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Colombia and have been noted by Colombia:**

121.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Austria) (Denmark) (Germany) (Niger) (Portugal) (Togo) (Turkey) (Zambia);**

121.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and establish the corresponding national preventive mechanism (Brazil);**

121.3 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile) (Ghana) (Peru) (Slovenia);**

121.4 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, establish a national preventive mechanism accordingly and effectively investigate reported acts of torture (Czechia);**

121.5 **Consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sri Lanka) (Tunisia);**

121.6 **Adhere to Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Spain);**

121.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Germany);**

121.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Niger) (Portugal);**

121.9 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Chile);**

121.10 **Consider becoming a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Cyprus);**

121.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal) (Zambia);**

121.12 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Togo);

121.13 Ratify other international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party (Philippines);

121.14 Accede to and fully implement the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Philippines);

121.15 Accept the request from the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to undertake an official mission to the country shortly (Uruguay);

121.16 Implement two recommendations which Colombia accepted linked to special procedures to invite the Special Rapporteur on violence against women (Zambia);

121.17 Introduce a comprehensive definition of racial discrimination in its legislation, in accordance with article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Botswana);

121.18 Adopt in its legislation a definition of racial discrimination in line with article 1 (1) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Côte d'Ivoire);

121.19 Redouble efforts to decrease overcrowding in prisons of 47.8 per cent and address the precarious health-care situation in those institutions (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

121.20 Ensure that there is no impunity and those responsible for political crimes are punished, including those for "false positives", for more than 5,000 mass graves found and more than 9,000 of victims of paramilitary activity (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

121.21 Respect due process and the right to defence of persons deprived of their liberty, especially those who are in such a condition because of the critical political and social situation (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

121.22 Take effective steps to address the prolonged humanitarian crisis, caused by the armed conflict affecting millions of people, especially women and children, as indicated in reports of the United Nations agencies and civil society organizations (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

121.23 Establish an independent and impartial application and decision-making procedure for implementing the right to conscientious objection to military service (Croatia);

121.24 Prohibit corporal punishment in all settings (Namibia);

121.25 Stipulate 18 years as the minimum age of marriage for all children (Namibia);

121.26 Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro);

121.27 Put in place legal measures to prevent the recruitment of children into the armed forces (Turkey);

121.28 Promote efforts to establish guarantees of reparation and reintegration of Colombian refugees abroad who wish to return voluntarily to the country, through the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-repetition (Paraguay).

122. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

123. **Colombia assumed the following voluntary commitments:**

123.1 **Continue the adoption of measures required for the protection of human rights defenders in Colombia;**

123.2 **Continue the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the National Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army;**

123.3 **Continue the peace negotiation process with the National Liberation Army;**

123.4 **Initiate the second phase of the National Plan on Business and Human Rights;**

123.5 **Continue the promotion of a culture on human rights, as an indispensable base for a real reconciliation.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Colombia was headed by His Excellency Guillermo Rivera Flores, Minister of the Interior, and composed of the following members:

- Sra. Adriana Mendoza Agudelo, Viceministra de Asuntos Multilaterales;
- Sra. Paula Gaviria Betancur, Consejera Presidencial para los Derechos Humanos;
- Sra. Yolanda Pinto, Directora de la Unidad para la Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas;
- Sra. Karen Abudinen Abuchaibe, Directora del Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar;
- Sra. Digna Isabel Durán Murillo, Directora de Justicia Transicional del Ministerio de Justicia y del Derecho;
- Coronel Marco Antonio Castillo, Director de Derechos Humanos y Derecho Internacional Humanitario del Ministerio de Defensa;
- Sr. Luis González León, Director de la Dirección Delegada para la Seguridad Ciudadana de la Fiscalía General de la Nación;
- Sra. Gloria Gaviria Ramos, Jefe de la Oficina de Cooperación y Relaciones Internacionales del Ministerio de Trabajo;
- Sra. Viviana Ferro, Subdirectora de la Unidad para la Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas;
- Sra. Kandya Obezo, Subdirectora de Educación y Participación del Ministerio de Ambiente;
- Sr. David Andrés Gómez Fajardo, Asesor del Despacho del Ministro de Justicia y del Derecho;
- Sr. Rafael Blanco, Asesor de la Consejería Presidencial para los Derechos Humanos;
- Sr. Luis Carlos Londoño Vargas, Asesor del Despacho del Ministro de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural;
- Sra. Adriana Vanessa Meza Consuegra, Asesora de la Dirección General del Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar;
- S.E. Beatriz Londoño Soto, Embajadora Representante Permanente de Colombia ante las Naciones Unidas;
- Sr. Luis Antonio Dimaté Cárdenas, Ministro Plenipotenciario;
- Sra. Alicia Alejandra Alfaro Castillo, Ministra Plenipotenciaria;
- Sr. Juan Camilo Saretzki Forero, Ministro Consejero;
- Sr. Juan Carlos Moreno Gutiérrez, Segundo Secretario;
- Sra. Natalia María Pulido Sierra, Segunda Secretaria;
- Sra. Diana Esperanza Castillo Castro, Segunda Secretaria;
- S.E. Julián Jaramillo Escobar, Embajador de Colombia en Berna;
- Sr. Carlos Barragán Vega, Ministro Plenipotenciario.

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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Uzbekistan

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Uzbekistan was held at the 5th meeting, on 9 May 2018. The delegation of Uzbekistan was headed by the Chairman of the Committee of the Legislative Chamber of the *Oliy Majlis* (Parliament) on Democratic Institutions, NGOs and citizens' self-government bodies, Akmal Saidov. At its 10th meeting, held on 11 May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Uzbekistan.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Uzbekistan: Côte d'Ivoire, Saudi Arabia and Slovakia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Uzbekistan:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/UZB/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/UZB/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/UZB/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Uzbekistan through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Uzbekistan stated that the first ever parliamentary report on the situation of human rights in the country had been published, a broad administrative reform was being implemented, the Office of the Business Ombudsman had been set up, and that, in 2017, Uzbekistan had observed the Year of Dialogue with the People and of Human Interests.

6. Other key steps taken included legislation on overseeing the actions of members of the Government, adopted by Parliament in 2017. Uzbek civil society was developing actively. For the Government, the opinion of every citizen mattered, and citizens had various tools for direct communication. All those measures were in line with the action strategy on five priority areas of development in Uzbekistan for 2017–2021.

7. Uzbekistan had been one of the first Central Asian countries to establish a national human rights institution. Human rights education efforts were continuous, with courses taught in all school classes and at university.

8. Efforts to ensure a genuinely independent judiciary required constitutional reform. The commission for the election of judges under the President's authority had been dissolved and a supreme judicial council had been established as the highest judicial body, and granted constitutional status. The new body was tasked with selecting judges and overseeing the constitutional principle of the independence of the judiciary. Judges henceforth served for life; judges retired at the age of 65, while Supreme Court justices retired at 70. Material and technical support for courts had been transferred from the Ministry of Justice to the Supreme Court itself. An example of progress was the fact that, in

2017, a total of 262 people had been acquitted, up from only 4 people in 2016. Moreover, acquittals or non-custodial sentences had been handed down in high-profile trials of independent journalists and human rights defenders accused of undermining the constitutional order.

9. Civil society reforms concerning non-governmental organizations (NGOs) included the elimination of unjustifiably restrictive registration procedures for them, exemption from 10 types of taxes, removal of the restriction on opening bank accounts and the introduction of electronic registration. More than 9,200 NGOs were active in Uzbekistan, and rent-free "NGO houses" had been established for their use.

10. With regard to corruption, a new law on State procurement had been designed to enhance transparency in public procurement and eradicate corruption.

11. Established in 2017, the Office of the Business Ombudsperson was a non-judicial body created to protect the rights of entrepreneurs. It was independent of government bodies and officials and answerable only to the Constitution and laws. Its activities and tasks, regulated by a law adopted in August 2017, were to shape State policy to help to defend and develop entrepreneurship, to ensure that State bodies respected entrepreneurs' rights, to provide legal support to entrepreneurs, and to guarantee freedom of entrepreneurship. It had already examined more than 1,500 complaints, and a helpline and a website had also been created to communicate with entrepreneurs. With regard to proposals to restore entrepreneurs' rights, out of 20 cases, there had been 8 warnings and 2 lawsuits for $500,000.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

12. During the interactive dialogue, 77 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are contained in section II of the present report.

13. Belgium welcomed the release of several political prisoners and the easing of some restrictions on freedom of expression. It noted, however, the significant gap between the international obligations of Uzbekistan and their implementation on the ground.

14. Argentina commended Uzbekistan for having adopted its action strategy on five priority areas of development.

15. Bulgaria encouraged Uzbekistan to take steps to implement the new legislation and public policies, and to enhance the independence and effectiveness of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) in conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

16. While commending Uzbekistan for addressing human rights challenges, including child labour in the cotton sector, Canada expressed hope that Uzbekistan would continue its progress in addressing harassment of persons, including of civil society actors and journalists.

17. Chile appreciated the State's cooperation with the United Nations and the various constitutional amendments made to broaden rights and the protection of freedoms. It regretted the suspension of registration of international human rights organizations. Chile noted the absence of women in the delegation of the State under review.

18. China welcomed the efforts made by Uzbekistan to promote and protect human rights, including the progress witnessed in economic and social development, poverty reduction, the raising of living standards, gender equality and promotion of the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable sectors of society.

19. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the State's strengthened cooperation with OHCHR and human rights mechanisms. It encouraged Uzbekistan to strengthen its legislative framework for human rights, in particular for the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and migrants.

20. Cuba welcomed the measures taken to strengthen women's rights and the judiciary, and highlighted the improved quality of education witnessed at all levels.

21. Czechia noted with interest the State's adoption of its action strategy on five priority areas of development in Uzbekistan for 2017–2021.

22. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcomed the ratification of several international instruments, the national plan of action for 2014–2016, the strengthened dialogue and cooperation with United Nations mechanisms and the consolidation of the legislative framework for human rights.

23. Denmark emphasized that dialogue with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was highly valuable to all States working to prevent torture and ill-treatment. The Convention against Torture Initiative stood ready to explore avenues to assist Uzbekistan.

24. Egypt welcomed the efforts made by Uzbekistan to counter corruption and human trafficking, and to establish mechanisms to promote and protect civil and political rights in the country.

25. Estonia expressed its concern regarding the situation of freedoms of expression, assembly, association and movement, and at reports of harassment, surveillance, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment of journalists and human rights defenders.

26. Finland remained concerned about continued reports of torture and ill-treatment in detention and of forced labour, especially in the cotton harvesting sector. It urged Uzbekistan to ensure respect for the freedoms of expression, association and assembly, in accordance with international human rights standards.

27. France welcomed the improvements made to the legislative framework of the rule of law and the reforms in the justice sector. It also noted the reduction in the incidence of forced labour and the greater space accorded to civil society.

28. Georgia welcomed the national plan of action for the implementation of recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms and the State's cooperation with OHCHR. It encouraged Uzbekistan to take steps to ensure that relevant policies and legislation were in full compliance with international standards.

29. Germany welcomed the reforms made by Uzbekistan and its commitment to abolishing child and forced labour, to releasing political detainees and to preventing torture. It remained concerned about restrictions on civil society and NGOs, and ongoing reports of torture in prisons.

30. Ghana welcomed the progress made in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. It expressed concern, however, about alleged cases of unlawful arrest, detention, torture, ill-treatment and conviction of members of religious minorities.

31. Greece welcomed the national plan of action (2014–2016) to implement the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms. It also welcomed the recent visit by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to Uzbekistan.

32. Paraguay applauded the national plan of action for the implementation of recommendations made by the treaty bodies, particularly the State's plan to develop cooperation with OHCHR. The coordination of efforts was crucial to the ratification of human rights instruments.

33. Hungary commended the release of political prisoners and the lowering of restrictions on freedom of expression. It welcomed the visits conducted in 2017 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, and also welcomed the road map on cooperation with OHCHR.

34. While welcoming the adoption of a plan of action to combat trafficking in persons, Iceland expressed its concern at the lack of investigations into prosecution of and convictions on trafficking in women and girls.

35. India appreciated the consolidation of the legal status of the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner and the greater effectiveness of the National Centre for Human

Rights. It praised some of the public welfare measures taken for the poor, children with disabilities and the elderly.

36. Indonesia praised the steps taken to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the action strategy on five priority areas of development for 2017–2021.

37. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the State for its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, the steps taken to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2017 presidential decree on supporting persons with disabilities.

38. Iraq welcomed the constitutional and legislative reforms to promote human rights, and the national programmes to fight corruption and human trafficking.

39. Poland welcomed the efforts made by Uzbekistan to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

40. Italy praised the State's enhanced cooperation with international organizations, its constructive dialogue with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and the ongoing human rights reforms.

41. Japan welcomed the State's emphasis on judicial and socioeconomic reform and the strengthening of civil society in the action strategy on five priority areas of development for 2017–2021, the Administrative Procedures Act and the Administrative Litigation Act.

42. Kazakhstan welcomed the increased cooperation of Uzbekistan with the treaty bodies and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and the efforts it had made to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, to reform the public management system and to preserve interethnic and interfaith harmony, while addressing the cultural and linguistic needs of minorities.

43. Kuwait noted the progress made in the fields of human rights, counter-terrorism, non-discrimination, political and civil participation, and cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

44. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the significant progress made since the previous review cycle, pointing out that the new legislative changes and practical steps would have a significant impact on the promotion of human rights in Uzbekistan.

45. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the action strategy on five priority areas of development. It also welcomed the bill on guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

46. Lithuania welcomed the State's enhanced cooperation with OHCHR and the progress made in eliminating child labour, and the release of political activists, human rights defenders and journalists who had been detained.

47. Malaysia welcomed the progress made in gender equality and the promotion and protection of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities. It also welcomed the progress made in human rights education, social welfare, health, and poverty reduction and eradication.

48. Maldives welcomed the efforts made to strengthen the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in accordance with the Paris Principles. It also welcomed the national plan of action to implement the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms and the action strategy on five priority areas of development for 2017–2021.

49. Mexico acknowledged the policy of openness of the Government and the measures taken on the issue of disability.

50. Montenegro welcomed the agreement with OHCHR and called upon the Government to issue a standing invitation to all special procedures. It invited the State to repeal article 120 of the Criminal Code, which criminalized consensual sexual activities between adult males.

51. Morocco commended the action strategy on five priority areas of development for 2017–2021 and the steps that the State had taken to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It welcomed the measures taken in the areas of corruption, domestic violence, education, health and women's empowerment.

52. The delegation of Uzbekistan stated that, with regard to cotton harvesting, measures had been taken to eradicate forced labour. The President had addressed the issue, and a parliamentary commission had been set up to ensure respect for labour rights. The Government was working together with representatives of Cotton Campaign, an international NGO that monitored the cotton sector worldwide. Various measures had been taken to improve the situation: harvest wages had been increased by 250 per cent in 2017; a sector-wide review, from planting to harvesting, had been conducted; and cotton growing was being phased out on low-yielding land. Annual production of cotton thread was around one ton; 72.5 per cent of the cotton harvest was processed, representing some 750,000 tons. Two major cotton-producing projects with a budget of $464 million had led to the creation of more than 6,500 jobs.

53. The delegation stated that targeted social protection measures had been taken for persons with disabilities. Efforts were continuing to ensure the compliance of infrastructure with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to secure its ratification. Some 20 NGOs worked directly to help persons with disabilities, while more than 600 NGOs offered additional assistance, including free courses in sign language and Braille. Steps were being taken to guarantee better quality of prosthetics and other rehabilitation devices required by persons with disabilities. The Government had launched a programme for the period 2017–2020 in support of persons with disabilities.

54. Efforts to prevent violence in places of detention and protect citizens against torture emphasized prevention. In 2017, additional measures had been taken to strengthen guarantees for defendants' rights and freedoms. Article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment had been fully implemented by article 235 of the Criminal Code, which contained a ban on torture. A procedure had been introduced for complaints concerning unlawful conduct by law enforcement officials. Henceforth, prosecutors would regularly verify the conditions of those in pretrial detention facilities or holding centres with the help of audio and video surveillance. In addition, the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Business Ombudsman provided independent monitoring. New restrictions had been introduced regarding the admissibility of evidence. Evidence was inadmissible if it had been obtained unlawfully or in violation of the Criminal Code; if a defendant's rights had been infringed in the process; if information came from an unknown source; or if testimony did not meet the required standards.

55. The delegation reported on efforts made to prevent torture in places of detention. Some 2,500 video surveillance cameras had been installed in pretrial detention facilities and holding centres; 123 had been installed in cells, and plans had been made for the installation of an additional 285 cameras. To ensure a timely response to reports by citizens on cases of torture, in 2017, the Ministry of Internal Affairs had opened special premises for receiving citizens and taking their complaints. Some 40 complaints concerning people in custody had been lodged, as a result of which 10 officials would be relieved of their duties.

56. A law had been adopted on 17 April 2018 to fight human trafficking. There was a need to align the Criminal Code with relevant international instruments, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. One noteworthy step taken at the national level had been the establishment of an interagency commission to fight human trafficking. In 2017, a total of 204 criminal cases had been brought on grounds of sexual exploitation, and 32 criminal cases for labour exploitation (down from 81 in 2016).

57. Additional measures had been taken to ensure gender equality. The Committee for Women was very active in that respect, and a law on combating domestic violence had been adopted. At the national level there were over more than 30 laws on the protection of gender equality. Efforts were being made to ensure equal pay for work of equal value. Plans had been made to create the position of ombudsman for children and youth.

58. Nepal welcomed the emphasis given to countering corruption, fighting human trafficking and promoting health and quality education. It also welcomed the State's engagement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations human rights mechanisms. Nepal called upon Uzbekistan to continue its measures to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, to fight domestic and gender violence and to ensure gender equality.

59. The Netherlands welcomed the visits made to Uzbekistan by the High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief in 2017. It also welcomed the efforts made to eliminate child labour and to ratify all relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). It regretted the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in Uzbekistan.

60. Nigeria commended the State for its cooperation with human rights mechanisms. It welcomed the State's human rights plans and programmes, and the efforts it had made to uphold the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and in countering terrorism.

61. Norway noted the greater openness and international engagement of Uzbekistan, the release of political prisoners, the removal of persons from black lists, the increasing freedom of the press and the progress made in abolishing forced labour. Restrictions on civil society and freedom of expression, association and belief, however, remained.

62. Oman appreciated the amendments made to the Constitution in 2017, and laws and regulations supporting social services for the elderly, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

63. Pakistan welcomed the measures taken on human rights and freedoms, and the action programme against human trafficking for 2017–2018.

64. Honduras praised Uzbekistan for its implementation of the recommendations that it had accepted.

65. The Philippines commended Uzbekistan for its efforts to institutionalize the protection of victims of trafficking by including a provision of medical support, and also to improve the normative framework to strengthen the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

66. Ireland welcomed the State's increased cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, as shown by the visits of the High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. Reports were still being received on the use of torture and ill-treatment against detainees and prisoners, and on the harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment of human rights defenders, journalists and government critics.

67. Portugal acknowledged ongoing reforms effected by Uzbekistan to ensure its socioeconomic development.

68. Qatar praised the State for the constitutional amendments made to bolster human rights, the adoption of the action strategy on five priority areas and the plan to support persons with disabilities. It welcomed also the efforts made to improve equality of opportunity for persons with disabilities.

69. The Republic of Korea welcomed the measures taken to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, the institutionalization of a constitutional court, the amendments made to the Citizenship Act and the regulations introduced to increase freedom of movement inside and across borders.

70. The Russian Federation welcomed the efforts made by Uzbekistan to approve national plans of action to implement the recommendations made by the treaty bodies and to amend the Constitution, particularly the provisions on the public control of activities conducted by the authorities.

71. Saudi Arabia acknowledged the increased level of cooperation of Uzbekistan with the treaty bodies and the special procedures, and its adoption of the memorandum of understanding between the National Centre for Human Rights and OHCHR.

72. Senegal praised Uzbekistan for its ratification of the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) and its plans to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

73. Serbia commended the State for the measures taken to bring national human rights institutions into line with the Paris Principles and to adopt plans of action to implement international human rights standards. It encouraged Uzbekistan to take measures to eliminate maternal and newborn mortality.

74. Slovakia praised the efforts made to strengthen media freedom and active cooperation with ILO in tackling child labour. It expressed concern at the fact that many journalists remained in custody.

75. Slovenia welcomed the improvement of the situation of human rights, pointing to active cooperation of Uzbekistan with civil society to strengthen the judicial system and raise awareness on human rights. It pointed to reports of forced labour and hazardous working conditions.

76. Spain urged Uzbekistan to address discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and to take steps to investigate and punish acts of violence and hate crimes.

77. The State of Palestine noted with appreciation the steps taken by Uzbekistan to introduce reforms to protect human rights and to sign the memorandum of understanding between the National Centre for Human Rights and OHCHR.

78. According to Sweden, Uzbekistan had taken positive steps to improve the situation of human rights, such as the release of human rights defenders and its review of many prison sentences. Nonetheless, an unknown number of individuals were still in prison on politically motivated charges.

79. Switzerland commended Uzbekistan for its wide-ranging reforms and encouraged it to fully implement its development strategy for 2017–2021. It welcomed the release of prisoners of conscience, but noted with concern that many people were still detained for having expressed their political views.

80. Tajikistan acknowledged the measures taken by Uzbekistan to adopt the plan of action for developing cooperation with OHCHR, to fight human trafficking and to provide legal protection and medical care for the victims of trafficking, and also the steps it had taken to eliminate child and forced labour.

81. Togo praised Uzbekistan for the improvements made to the constitutional and legislative framework and the adoption of international norms to strengthen cooperation with the treaty bodies and other human rights mechanisms.

82. Turkmenistan noted the increased level of cooperation between Uzbekistan, OHCHR, the treaty bodies, the special procedures and international NGOs on questions of human rights and freedoms.

83. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the adoption of a number of national plans of action, and enquired about any preliminary conclusions reached since Uzbekistan had adopted its national plan of action on human trafficking the previous year.

84. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland noted the positive developments in the situation of human rights in Uzbekistan, but also the concerns remaining with regard to freedom of expression and association.

85. The United States of America commended Uzbekistan for the steps taken to expand space for civil society and reduce structural challenges for NGOs. It urged Uzbekistan to continue its efforts to address torture, and to invite the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to visit the country. It noted with concern the wide-ranging restrictions on peaceful religious activity and the fact that reports were still being received of cases of adult forced labour.

86. Uruguay hailed the implementation by Uzbekistan of its plans of action, including its development strategy. It hoped that the State would consider ratifying the Rome Statute

and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

87. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela applauded the State's social protection plans for older people and persons with disability, the medical care policies for rural dwellers, mothers and children, and the national system for development goals focused on employment and social protection.

88. Yemen welcomed the efforts made by Uzbekistan to strengthen human rights, particularly its adoption of the action strategy on five priority areas of development and the strengthening of the constitutional guarantee with regard to submitting complaints with the authorities.

89. Afghanistan commended the Government of Uzbekistan for its efforts to empower the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, and encouraged the State to take further action to promote and protect human rights.

90. Algeria commended the State for its implementation of the programme of action to combat human trafficking and the inclusion of all the categories of human rights in its action strategy on five priority areas of development, and encouraged Uzbekistan to monitor the outcome of steps taken.

91. Brazil commended Uzbekistan for its continued efforts to reduce poverty, to provide access to education and health and to combat infant mortality and malnutrition. It encouraged the State to extend a standing invitation to the special procedures.

92. Armenia encouraged Uzbekistan to expand human rights training and education. It noted the State's use of modern information and communications technology in its dialogues with the public, and encouraged Uzbekistan to strengthen public and civil society dialogue in the implementation of human rights programmes.

93. Australia commended Uzbekistan for its decree against forced labour and for its progress in the protection of freedom of expression. It welcomed the measures taken by the State to improve the situation of human rights of detainees and to strengthen protection against ill-treatment and torture.

94. Azerbaijan praised the achievements of Uzbekistan in its incorporation of international human rights standards into the national education system. It commended Uzbekistan for the progress made in delivering public services in a transparent and efficient manner.

95. Belarus praised the comprehensive and systemic approach taken by Uzbekistan to implement human rights policy through its action strategy on five priority areas of development and the measures taken to promote employment, improve the quality of public services and increase cooperation with OHCHR and its regional office.

96. The delegation of Uzbekistan stated that the country was endeavouring to guarantee the rights and freedoms of journalists and to strengthen the freedom of the media to operate. The persecution of journalists was not an issue, as reflected in the comment by Lithuania to the effect that no journalists were currently detained in the country.

97. With regard to issues relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, Uzbekistan, like the other States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, wished to preserve family values and was therefore not planning to amend article 120 of the Criminal Code.

98. With regard to the urban-rural divide mentioned, Uzbekistan gave priority to various recommendations on decent housing. A nationwide programme launched in 2016 had led to the construction of 18,000 well-equipped buildings and the renovation of 130,000 buildings in rural areas. Furthermore, a one-off "rental amnesty" had been designed to facilitate the establishment of property title. Other steps were being taken to implement economic and cultural changes that would benefit all rural dwellers, relating, inter alia, to the rights to decent work, education and affordable health care.

99. Determined efforts were being made to reduce statelessness. Over the past five years, 1,500 stateless persons had been granted Uzbek citizenship. Moreover, efforts were

being made to ensure comprehensive registration of all births. In a recent report, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had pointed out that Uzbekistan had a birth registration rate of 100 per cent. Furthermore, a campaign had been launched to register children directly in remote areas. The Aral Sea area was a development priority for the Government. In 2017 alone, some 150,000 people had gained access to drinking water thanks to the renovation of water pipes and water supply plants. The Government had earmarked $2.5 billion for the development of the region.

100. The delegation informed the Human Rights Council that, for the first time in 15 years, Uzbekistan had extended an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. The State intended to work closely also with the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers. One priority of the current judicial reform was the ratification of international conventions and United Nations instruments. For example, Uzbekistan would soon ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

101. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Uzbekistan and enjoy the support of Uzbekistan:**

101.1 **Ratify the human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Honduras);**

101.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Spain);**

101.3 **Ratify the international instruments to which the State is not yet a party (Togo);**

101.4 **Ratify the main human rights instruments to which the State is not yet a party (Côte d'Ivoire);**

101.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Denmark);**

101.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**

101.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Estonia);**

101.8 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);**

101.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Greece);**

101.10 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Lithuania);**

101.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

101.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Senegal);**

101.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia);**

101.14 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and step up its efforts to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Indonesia);**

101.15 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq);**

101.16 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as the issue of enforced disappearance is an urgent global problem that we all have to tackle (Japan);**

101.17 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal);**

101.18 **Consider accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, and the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Georgia);**

101.19 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Paraguay);**

101.20 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Iraq);**

101.21 **Accelerate the process of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Kazakhstan);**

101.22 **Expedite the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Oman);**

101.23 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);**

101.24 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Qatar);**

101.25 **Expedite efforts to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Saudi Arabia);**

101.26 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Armenia);**

101.27 **Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);**

101.28 **Continue dialogue with relevant countries, international agencies and civil society in order to improve the human rights situation, including that of women, children and persons with disabilities (Japan);**

101.29 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**

101.30 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Iceland);**

101.31 **Issue an official invitation to all United Nations mandate holders who have outstanding requests to visit Uzbekistan (Hungary);**

101.32 Issue a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Poland);

101.33 Invite the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (Norway);

101.34 Extend an open invitation to special procedure mandate holders and human rights mechanisms (Honduras);

101.35 Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures (Portugal);

101.36 Ratify both the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia);

101.37 Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Brazil);

101.38 Continue its cooperation efforts with United Nations mechanisms and treaty bodies (Morocco);

101.39 Continue its engagement and cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms (Pakistan);

101.40 Continue constructive cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms (Tajikistan);

101.41 Strengthen cooperation with the United Nations system in the area of human rights (Algeria);

101.42 Continue its active engagement with special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies and OHCHR (Azerbaijan);

101.43 Continue its consolidation of the rule of law by concretely implementing new legislation (France);

101.44 Ensure respect for transparency and equity in the granting of land and real-estate facilities to investors (France);

101.45 Continue efforts to strengthen the national legal framework for human rights (Georgia);

101.46 Establish an overarching national human rights plan that takes into account its international obligations and guides coordination efforts between the various national action plans and State programmes (Paraguay);

101.47 Continue efforts on human rights education and training for the benefit of civil servants and authorities (Morocco);

101.48 Consider adopting further necessary measures to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in line with its international obligations (Nigeria);

101.49 Continue its work to bring national legislation into line with Uzbekistan's international obligations (Russian Federation);

101.50 Pursue measures to fight corruption, in particular through the adoption of an anti-corruption law in line with international standards in this area (Algeria);

101.51 Maintain and further develop the application of innovative approaches and technological innovations in the efficient delivery of public services (Azerbaijan);

101.52 Bring domestic legislation on counter-terrorism into line with the relevant international framework (Mexico);

101.53 Take actions necessary to preserve human rights while countering terrorism (Afghanistan);

101.54 Widen the scope of its human rights national action plan through an inclusive approach for the advancement of the promotion and protection of human rights (Indonesia);

101.55 Continue the practice of adopting national plans for actions in various fields with the purpose of improving the human rights situation in the country (Tajikistan);

101.56 Pursue its efforts to strengthen the national human rights institution and bring it into conformity with the Paris Principles (Egypt);

101.57 Further strengthen the National Centre for Human Rights and the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (India);

101.58 Redouble efforts to strengthen its national human rights institutions to comply with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);

101.59 Step up efforts to align its national human rights institutions with the Paris Principles (Philippines);

101.60 Pursue efforts to set up a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Qatar);

101.61 Establish a national human rights institution fully in line with the Paris Principles (Senegal);

101.62 Ensure that the national human rights institution is fully in line with the Paris Principles (Togo);

101.63 Advance in the adjustment of existing institutions with a view to establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Uruguay);

101.64 Continue efforts to expedite the adoption of the law on public oversight and the establishment of public councils in all government bodies (Yemen);

101.65 Ensure fully the alignment of the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) with the Paris Principles (Afghanistan);

101.66 Request technical cooperation with OHCHR to establish a permanent national mechanism to follow up on the implementation of international human rights recommendations (Paraguay);

101.67 Consider the establishment or the strengthening of the existing national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up, in line with elements identified in the 2016 OHCHR guide on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (Portugal);

101.68 Define racial discrimination and incorporate all the elements of article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination into its legislation (Côte d'Ivoire);

101.69 Take all appropriate measures to improve the living conditions of all detainees, as well as to prevent any phenomena of mistreatment or torture in prisons (Greece);

101.70 Ensure the rights of detainees and prisoners to contact their families and medical doctors and to consult with a lawyer of their choice in privacy and confidence (Poland);

101.71 Grant access to places of detention to independent monitors (Lithuania);

101.72 Continue the process of releasing all political prisoners together with a transparent process to bring legislation into line with the international framework on civil and political rights (Mexico);

101.73 **Revise practices in detention facilities to eliminate the use of torture or other cruel treatment or punishment, employ independent monitoring, and thoroughly investigate and prosecute allegations of such practices (Canada);**

101.74 **Carry out judicial and penitentiary reforms in accordance with international law (Norway);**

101.75 **Release all persons imprisoned on politically motivated charges (Sweden);**

101.76 **Close the Jaslyk prison colony, facilitate full and unhindered access for monitoring by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Australia);**

101.77 **Publicly condemn the use of torture and establish a system of independent inspection and control of places of detention in order to prevent the possible use of torture in those places of detention (Belgium);**

101.78 **Strengthen the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (France);**

101.79 **Amend article 235 of the Criminal Code to ensure that the definition of torture is in full compliance with international human rights law, and invite the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to visit Uzbekistan (Germany);**

101.80 **Release all wrongfully imprisoned persons and take further meaningful measures to end torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities (Hungary);**

101.81 **Carry out prompt, impartial and effective investigations into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and prosecute and punish all those responsible, including law enforcement and prison officials (Ireland);**

101.82 **Take measures to put an end to torture, and implement the recommendations of United Nations mechanisms in this regard (Chile);**

101.83 **Continue its efforts to combat torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment through the improvement of law enforcement legislation and actions (Russian Federation);**

101.84 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, establish a national preventive mechanism accordingly, and strengthen the investigation and prosecution of allegations of torture (Czechia);**

101.85 **Continue to provide appropriate training to lawyers, prosecutors and judges in order to carry out judicial reforms (Japan);**

101.86 **Establish recognition mechanisms for truth and compensation for the victims of the Andijan events (Mexico);**

101.87 **Adopt legislation that ensures the full independence of the judiciary and the exercise of the legal profession in conformity with international standards (Mexico);**

101.88 **Further strengthen ongoing efforts to increase transparency of its judiciary (Republic of Korea);**

101.89 **Take all necessary measures to ensure the independence and impartiality of the judicial system (Switzerland);**

101.90 **Continue taking steps for the strengthening of the judicial system (Tajikistan);**

101.91 **Implement national priorities in the field of rights and freedoms of the person (Cuba);**

101.92 Fully implement government decrees banning the forced mobilization of public sector workers and students, and provide access for independent non-governmental organizations to conduct monitoring of labour rights (Australia);

101.93 Continue and expand efforts with regard to freedom of expression and the media (France);

101.94 More vigorously take further steps towards increased press freedom (Georgia);

101.95 Allow the media to operate without government interference, and ensure access to all sources of information, including foreign sources and the Internet (Germany);

101.96 Cease all restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and ensure that the right to manifest one's religion in private or in public is fully protected and realized (Ghana);

101.97 Take the necessary measures to guarantee that all persons can peacefully exercise their right to freedom of expression in accordance with international standards, in particular when it comes to human rights defenders (Argentina);

101.98 Adopt concrete measures to ensure the legitimate exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and belief (Norway);

101.99 Release all journalists detained on politically motivated charges (Slovakia);

101.100 Refrain from oppression of the free press by instances of police violence, detention and censorship (Slovakia);

101.101 Bring legal provisions that restrict the right to freedom of expression and freedom of the media into line with Uzbekistan's international human rights obligations, including by allowing effective access to information, also online (Sweden);

101.102 Ensure that all individuals, including human rights defenders and journalists, may exercise their right to freedom of expression and access to information (Switzerland);

101.103 Guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association, and end the harassment of journalists, human rights defenders and those exercising their constitutional right to peaceful protest (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

101.104 Release all persons imprisoned on the basis of their political affiliation, and cease the use of article 221 of the Criminal Code to extend prison sentences without justification (Australia);

101.105 Continue implementing measures to extend public access to legal information and to extend targeted educational work in this area (Belarus);

101.106 Ensure that all trials, including those of persons charged with terrorism or in connection with membership in banned religious organizations, observe international fair trial standards (Finland);

101.107 Consider removing burdensome and oppressive registration requirements, and rescind intrusive government practices, including monitoring and raiding, which infringe on the right to freedom of religion or belief (Ghana);

101.108 Release all prisoners of conscience incarcerated or arbitrarily detained on account of their faith (Ghana);

101.109 Adopt effective measures to promote and protect freedom of religion or belief and to prevent related restrictions and discrimination (Italy);

101.110 Revise provisions in the country's criminal and administrative codes relating to freedom of religion or belief, so as to conform with article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Canada);

101.111 Revise so-called religious "extremism" laws to decriminalize peaceful religious activities, simplify registration requirements for religious groups, and remove penalties on religious literature communications (United States of America);

101.112 Publicly support the work of men and women human rights defenders and independent journalists, particularly by systematically investigating cases of violence or harassment against them, prosecuting perpetrators and compensating and rehabilitating victims (Belgium);

101.113 Ensure prompt, independent and thorough investigation into all reports of assaults on and harassment of human rights defenders, journalists and civil society activists, and bring those responsible to justice (Estonia);

101.114 Decriminalize defamation and include it in the Civil Code in accordance with international standards (Estonia);

101.115 Involve Uzbek civil society and international actors more widely in the implementation of decisions, in particular for the prevention of torture, freedom of the media and working conditions during cotton harvests (France);

101.116 Ensure that all civil society and human rights organizations can work without hindrance by lifting prohibitive registration requirements, burdensome programme approval regulations and censorship of printed materials (Germany);

101.117 Provide greater support to facilitate the work of civil society (Iraq);

101.118 Create a safe environment for the work of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, and investigate all reports of harassment of human rights defenders (Poland);

101.119 Enhance efforts to create an environment in which journalists, human rights defenders and NGOs can freely operate in accordance with international standards (Italy);

101.120 Continue to provide support to human right organizations (Kuwait);

101.121 Review the June 2015 law on NGOs and the laws on defamation to bring them into line with international standards, including Uzbekistan's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Lithuania);

101.122 Ensure that NGOs, human rights defenders, journalists and other members of civil society can freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Lithuania);

101.123 Agree on a precise and early date for the visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, as previously recommended (Ireland);

101.124 Grant unrestricted permission to national and international civil society organizations to freely conduct independent monitoring of the alleged forced mobilization of citizens for cotton picking (Slovenia);

101.125 Make the registration process and requirements for independent NGOs working in the human rights sector more flexible (Spain);

101.126 Fully implement the President's decree of 4 May 2018 (United States of America);

101.127 Further promote the enjoyment of the right to freedom of association and the right to participate in public affairs and facilitate the registration and

unhindered work of NGOs, including those focusing on human rights, as well as the registration and functioning of opposition political parties (Czechia);

101.128 **Increase its efforts in the prohibition of slavery and human trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

101.129 **Continue efforts to comprehensively and effectively combat human trafficking (Kazakhstan);**

101.130 **Introduce amendments to the Criminal Code to establish criminal liability for trafficking in children, child prostitution and child pornography (Kyrgyzstan);**

101.131 **Redouble efforts in its fight against trafficking in persons and other related crimes (Nigeria);**

101.132 **Redouble its efforts to combat trafficking in women and children, and ensure appropriate protection for victims through the assignment of human and financial resources to the institutions responsible (Honduras);**

101.133 **Effectively implement the decision made on 8 August 2017 by the Cabinet of Ministers and take further time-bound measures to combat all forms of slavery and forced labour, namely in the cotton and silk sectors (Portugal);**

101.134 **Punish all forms of trafficking in women and children (State of Palestine);**

101.135 **Adopt a holistic approach in combating prostitution (State of Palestine);**

101.136 **Continue its efforts to enable tangible progress in combating trafficking in persons (Turkmenistan);**

101.137 **Enhance the laws on the protection of victims of human trafficking and ensure that sanctions against those responsible for trafficking are tightened (United Arab Emirates);**

101.138 **Continue to strengthen safeguards against the use of forced labour in the cotton sector (Estonia);**

101.139 **End all forced labour, including by abolishing the quota system in the cotton sector, and allow independent monitoring in this regard (Finland);**

101.140 **Continue cooperation with ILO on the fight against forced labour (France);**

101.141 **Collaborate with ILO to end the systematic use of forced labour of adults in the cotton sector, and develop a comprehensive plan to eliminate its use (Canada);**

101.142 **Eradicate forced labour entirely, including in the cotton harvest sector, through the effective enforcement of the legal framework prohibiting forced labour and by holding those responsible for violations to account (Netherlands);**

101.143 **Step up its efforts to improve working conditions in the cotton production sector and strengthen safeguards against the use of forced labour, particularly child labour (Slovenia);**

101.144 **Continue to work closely with international organizations to eradicate the drivers of forced labour and ensure compliance with ILO recommendations across all sectors (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

101.145 **End forced labour by ensuring the consistent implementation of new labour protections, including by local governments (United States of America);**

101.146 **Take further steps to eradicate forced labour, in particular in the cotton industry (Czechia);**

101.147 **Pursue efforts to provide support and protection to the family, the natural and fundamental unit of society (Egypt);**

101.148 **Continue its efforts to further implement international labour standards in the country through its established cooperation with ILO (Maldives);**

101.149 **Continue its efforts to further reduce the gap between rural and urban areas in the fields of education and health care (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

101.150 **Continue to promote economic and social sustainable development, raise people's standard of living and lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights by its people (China);**

101.151 **Continue to reinforce its successful social policies on access to education and health, in particular for women and children, as well as its successful programmes aimed at fostering employment, nutrition and assistance for the most vulnerable in the fight against poverty and social inequality (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

101.152 **Implement the action strategy on five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan by 2021 (Belarus);**

101.153 **Apply the action strategy on five priority areas of development for 2017–2021 (Cuba);**

101.154 **Adopt legal and political measures to improve access to comprehensive sexual education inside and outside schools in order to increase health-seeking behaviour with respect to sexuality, reproductive health and HIV prevention, with particular emphasis on groups at risk, such as women migrant workers, the rural population, drug users and sex workers (Honduras);**

101.155 **Promote the right to health and to a clean environment of the people in the Aral Sea area (Republic of Korea);**

101.156 **Continue strengthening the national human rights institution in full conformity with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**

101.157 **Enhance its efforts to further expand the educational system for various categories of the public, particularly for women and girls (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

101.158 **Continue efforts to provide inclusive education to all children, including those with special needs (Bulgaria);**

101.159 **Address corruption in the education system to ensure that all hidden and/or informal costs are eliminated (Malaysia);**

101.160 **Endeavour to reduce the disparity between urban and rural areas in the distribution of teachers in primary education (Portugal);**

101.161 **Strengthen efforts aimed at guaranteeing women's rights, and protect women more efficiently (Egypt);**

101.162 **Develop policies in order to eradicate forced sterilization and improve contraception policies and policies on access to decent work for women (Paraguay);**

101.163 **Promote the entry of women into the formal economy, and apply legislation guaranteeing equal pay for work of equal value (Iceland);**

101.164 Continue implementation of various policies on gender equality and the protection of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities (India);

101.165 Continue to promote gender equality and to protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (China);

101.166 Take further legislative measures and continue public policies designed to promote and protect the rights of women, and to facilitate their empowerment (Bulgaria);

101.167 Adopt a law on equal rights and opportunities for men and women, as well as a national plan of action on this topic (Kyrgyzstan);

101.168 Continue to assist and promote the advancement of women in society (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

101.169 Take necessary steps to attain gender parity in the higher education system, and address barriers to non-traditional education and career paths for girls and women in the country (Malaysia);

101.170 Adopt a comprehensive national action plan to promote gender equality (Montenegro);

101.171 Continue efforts to promoting women's empowerment and gender equality (Nepal);

101.172 Redouble its efforts for the promotion and protection of women's rights, including measures to enhance their representation in leadership and decision-making positions (Pakistan);

101.173 Take additional steps to achieve gender parity in higher education, and overcome barriers to non-traditional education and career paths for girls and women (Portugal);

101.174 Adopt a legal and regulatory framework that guarantees equal rights for men and women, bringing the new laws into line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Chile);

101.175 Invest in additional efforts to lower unemployment, in particular among women, in the agricultural sector and for people of nomad groups (Serbia);

101.176 Adopt new legislation on gender equality in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and prepare a comprehensive national action plan to promote gender equality and improve the role of women in political, economic, public and other spheres of life (Slovenia);

101.177 Take further steps to ensure gender equality in higher education (State of Palestine);

101.178 Revise national legislation and adopt new laws in conformity with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and develop a comprehensive national action plan for gender promotion (Togo);

101.179 Harmonize gender equality to guarantee equal rights (Turkmenistan);

101.180 Fully implement the recommendations of 2015 made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and pass laws on gender equality and domestic violence that comply with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

101.181 Take concrete measures to effectively combat gender-based violence, particularly early marriage and domestic violence, throughout the country, including in rural areas (Belgium);

101.182 Specifically define and prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace (Iceland);

101.183 Take further steps to fight violence against women (Italy);

101.184 Adopt comprehensive measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including through relevant legislation (Kyrgyzstan);

101.185 Accelerate the legislative reform envisaged to promote gender equality and punish gender-based violence, and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Spain);

101.186 Adopt legislation on violence against women in line with international norms and standards (Sweden);

101.187 Harmonize domestic legislation to incorporate the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Uruguay);

101.188 Legally define and include in the Criminal Code the crimes of domestic violence and gender-based violence, taking into account sexual orientation and gender identity (Uruguay);

101.189 Consider adopting specific legislation on prevention of and protection against gender-based violence and domestic violence in compliance with international human rights standards (Brazil);

101.190 Develop measures for the protection and recovery of and assistance for children living and working in street situations, and prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking and economic and sexual exploitation (Iceland);

101.191 Continue its efforts to promote and protect family values and the rights of children, youth, women and older persons (Islamic Republic of Iran);

101.192 Consider developing a coherent national strategy for the protection of vulnerable children, with an emphasis on the gradual transition from their current placement in institutions to receiving family support services (Bulgaria);

101.193 Encourage the effective implementation of the comprehensive national mechanism for the protection of vulnerable children (Maldives);

101.194 Enact legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro);

101.195 Enhance efforts to protect the rights of children (Republic of Korea);

101.196 Introduce into domestic legislation a definition of the sale of children (State of Palestine);

101.197 Strengthen policies on the protection of children, and take measures to criminalize the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Togo);

101.198 Continue measures to strengthen the mechanisms of protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);

101.199 Continue to improve the support system for persons with disabilities and to strengthen their rights and freedoms (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

101.200 Finalize the elaboration of and adopt a bill on the rights of persons with disabilities that takes into account the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Russian Federation);

101.201 Pursue the efforts made to elaborate a law on persons with disabilities (Saudi Arabia).

102. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Uzbekistan and have been noted by Uzbekistan:

102.1 Adopt legislation against discrimination based on gender, disability, migration status, and sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);

102.2 Take the necessary measures to repeal from the Criminal Code the criminalization of consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex (Argentina);

102.3 Combat any form of discrimination or violence against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, and repeal article 120 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes consensual sexual activities between adult males (Iceland);

102.4 Consider repealing provisions that criminalize homosexuality (Italy);

102.5 Repeal legislation that criminalizes consensual same-sex conduct, and adopt laws to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Canada);

102.6 Combat violence and discrimination on all grounds, including on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, through the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and by investigating and prosecuting all acts of violence and discrimination (Netherlands);

102.7 Adopt legal measures to combat effectively all forms of discrimination on all grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Honduras);

102.8 Punish discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity prejudices (Chile);

102.9 Repeal article 120 of the Criminal Code that criminalizes consensual relationships between men, and take measures to alleviate the discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community and to investigate and punish acts of violence and so-called "hate crimes" (Spain);

102.10 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between people of the same sex, and combat stigmatization on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (Uruguay);

102.11 Eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of discrimination, including that based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Czechia).

103. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Uzbekistan was headed by H.E. Prof Akmal Saidov, Chairman of the Committee of the Legislative Chamber of the *Oliy Majlis* (Parliament) on Democratic Institutions, NGOs and Citizens' self-government bodies, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Ulugbek Lapasov, Counsellor, Chargé d'affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Makhmud Istamov, Deputy Minister of Justice;
- Mr. Bakhrombek Adilov, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs;
- Mr. Erkin Yuldashev, Deputy Prosecutor General;
- Mr. Dilmurod Kasimov, Authorized Person of the President to Protect the Rights and Interests of Entrepeneurs, Business-Ombudsman;
- Mr. Gulyamjon Pirimkulov, Head of division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Tuvalu

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Tuvalu was held at the 6th meeting, on 9 May 2018. The delegation of Tuvalu was headed by the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Enele Sosene Sopoaga. At its 10th meeting, held on 11 May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Tuvalu.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Tuvalu: Mexico, Mongolia and Senegal.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Tuvalu:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/TUV/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/TUV/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/TUV/3);

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Tuvalu through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Enele Sosene Sopoaga, presented the national report. He emphasized that the preparation of the report had followed a broad-based consultative approach that was inclusive and constructive. The report highlighted achievements, challenges and constraints and set out the way forward for the country's strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights.

6. The fundamental human rights of Tuvaluans as a people, and the rights of Tuvalu as a sovereign State, were grossly challenged by unique vulnerabilities to external forces that were beyond the country's capability to cope.

7. Since the previous report under the universal periodic review, the adverse impacts of the 2008 global economic crisis had even reached nations as remote as Tuvalu. That had resulted in a severe reduction in employment of the country's trained seafarers on merchant ships worldwide, losses in foreign investment in the Tuvalu Trust Fund and losses in revenue from remittances. Severe tropical cyclones had hit the islands, and there had been increased erosion, salinity in fresh water, long droughts and other environmental degradation, which the Government strongly believed to be effects of climate change and sea-level rise.

8. Tuvalu, a least developed country and small island developing State, had been largely left on its own with respect to ensuring the provision of services vital to the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people.

9. Unless the Human Rights Council and States Members of the United Nations fully recognized the unique vulnerabilities of Tuvalu and other small island developing States, took urgent concrete action to respond to the problem of climate change and provided special partnership opportunities for small island developing States, the fundamental rights

of Tuvaluans to sustainable development and to survive as a people would be severely compromised. The Council must follow up its words with action.

10. The Constitution of Tuvalu, which provided for the full recognition of human rights, continued to be recognized as the supreme, and basic, law of the country. Protection and promotion of human rights and freedoms was derived from and based on the Constitution. All laws, and all acts done under a law, must be reasonably justifiable and democratic. When determining whether a law or act was reasonably justifiable and democratic, the courts could take into account: (a) traditional standards, values and practices, as well as previous laws and judicial decisions, of Tuvalu; (b) law, practices and judicial decisions of other countries that the court reasonably regarded as democratic; and (c) international conventions, declarations, recommendations and judicial decisions concerning human rights.

11. Within its limited resources, Tuvalu would continue to work towards the full realization of human rights for the people of Tuvalu, in all sectors of development and of the community.

12. A constitutional review, which involved nationwide consultations, was currently under way and set to be finalized in 2019. Proposed changes included adding gender and disability as grounds on which discrimination was prohibited. Also being considered in the review were models and structure of governance, the traditional and cultural rights of island communities, the response to climate change and the social impact of cybercrime.

13. Tuvalu was committed to achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In its national strategy for sustainable development, formulated in 2015, and with a vision of a more protected, secure and prosperous Tuvalu and healthier people who were more engaged in national, regional and international forums, the Government had identified — and the people had supported — 12 areas of priority, including targets on climate change, governance, development of outer islands, social development, infrastructure development and oceans.

14. Education and health services, including the costly Tuvalu Medical Treatment Scheme for referrals, were provided for by the Government and almost 100 per cent of the population had access to electricity. Per capita income had increased greatly over the past few years. There was still an urgent need to improve infrastructure for connectivity and better nation-building.

15. Climate change was the most serious existential threat for Tuvaluans as a people and Tuvalu as a sovereign State. Concrete action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to provide adequate funding for mitigation and adaptation actions for small island developing States was urgently needed. The seriousness of the threat had been noted in, among other documents, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. In its statement for 2018, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Leaders had called for a new paradigm shift for responses and action by the international community.

16. The increasing frequency in which effects of climate change had been felt been well documented worldwide. Those effects threatened the full and effective enjoyment by Tuvaluans of their rights to life, water and sanitation, food, health, housing, self-determination, culture and development.

17. Tuvalu was currently active in the development of the guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. It had also proposed two initiatives related to climate change, including with respect to the establishment of the Pacific Islands Climate Change Insurance Facility and the adoption of a General Assembly resolution to give protection to people displaced by the impacts of climate change.

18. Tuvalu was mainstreaming climate change action into its national strategy for sustainable development and the budget. It had established the Climate Change and Disaster Survival Fund, and national strategies on its nationally determined contributions and national action plans. It had embarked on a coastal adaptation project, funded by the Green Climate Fund, to construct protective sea walls for all its islands. Education and capacity-building were extremely vital — a more educated population would cope better with the effects of climate change and sea-level rise.

19. Relocation of Tuvaluans to other lands was not an option. The Government was fully committed to protecting Tuvalu against the onslaught of climate change. The Prime Minister called on the international community to do what was right, in the manner provided under the Paris Agreement. The United Nations, including the Human Rights Council, was duty-bound and morally obligated to provide leadership to keep the "world canoe" buoyant.

20. The national creed, which could be translated as "Tuvalu for the Almighty", was the foundation of the country's social and cultural beliefs and the basis of the country's nationhood. Tuvaluans held dear their God-given traditional values and cultural practices and their communal way of living, respecting each other and living alongside and helping each other to ensure human security and dignity for every Tuvaluan. Tuvalu needed, however, to improve its development to independently support the development and protection of human rights in the country.

21. Tuvalu had ratified a number of international conventions dealing with human rights, and the Government was committed to fulfilling the requirements and obligations under those conventions.

22. On the ground, a number of initiatives had made progress with the partnership of bilateral donors and regional bodies. The Government hoped that the Human Rights Council could also make a contribution to help Tuvaluans.

23. Tuvalu, with the help of partners, had made a number of improvements to its existing legislation, particularly in laws on child protection, persons with disabilities, women, and persons in vulnerable situations. There was also increased recognition of the rights of island communities and governance on each of the nine islands of Tuvalu. Special support, through policies and action, was provided in the areas of women's development, gender balance, the treatment of women, and youth issues.

24. Tuvalu would continue to honour and implement the policies referred to in its national report, and thus fulfil its human rights obligations. It would also make improvements through the implementation of its human rights action plan and its policies on the protection of children in all education institutions, on gender, on disability, on young people and on sustainable and integrated water and sanitation. The Government was providing $70 per month per person for seniors and persons with disabilities. While that was a large sacrifice for a small island like Tuvalu, the country was committed to the initiative, which would continue.

25. The country was facing a number of critical challenges, including a lack of technical and specialist expertise, a lack of opportunities, a lack of financial support, difficulty securing durable and genuine partnerships, climate change issues and the isolation of Tuvalu from the centre of influence, which was a source of disadvantage and vulnerability.

26. The Prime Minister pointed out that he and his delegation had travelled halfway around the globe, which represented a heavy carbon footprint, to satisfy the reporting requirements of the Human Rights Council.

27. Reiterating the appeal made by the Prime Minister in 2009 during the presentation of the country's first report under the universal periodic review, the delegation stated that the United Nations, including the Human Rights Council, must establish a physical presence in Tuvalu and the Pacific to ensure durable, responsive and genuine partnerships on human rights. The delegation expressed appreciation for the decision of the Government of Australia to establish a full-fledged high commission in Tuvalu. That could be a critical conduit for others.

28. At the end of June 2018 Tuvalu would host the Polynesian Leaders Group Summit in Funafuti, during which there would be extensive dialogue on climate change and biodiversity in small island developing States.

29. The Prime Minister invited the representatives at the Human Rights Council to visit Tuvalu and see for themselves the beauty and culture of the country and its exposure to the elements of climate change and sea-level rise. He also invited them to the Pacific Islands Forum leaders summit, which Tuvalu would be hosting again in 2019.

30. The Prime Minister thanked a number of countries and partners for the support provided to Tuvalu in dealing with its challenges.

31. The representative of China raised a point of order, stressing that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2758, there was only one China, and asking the President to remind delegations to use, when referring to Taiwan, its official name at United Nations, that is, Taiwan Province of China.

32. The President explained that the Secretariat would strictly abide by General Assembly resolution 2758 in the report it would prepare in connection with the universal periodic review of Tuvalu. The Assembly had recognized in that resolution that the representatives of the People's Republic of China were the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations. The President recalled that national reports were not part of the outcomes, which were adopted by the Human Rights Council in plenary sessions.

33. The delegation of Tuvalu thanked the President for his clarifications. It emphasized that the partnership of the Human Rights Council was critical as Tuvalu strove to fully realize its commitments to the protection of fundamental human rights and the promotion of its people.

34. The delegation urged the international community, especially the Human Rights Council, to hear the voices of Tuvalu and the Pacific, and all small island developing States, especially those of their young people, women and persons with disabilities, and to urgently fulfil their responsibilities by taking action on adaptation and urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

35. During the interactive dialogue, 48 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

36. The United States of America noted that protections for children, including young girls, were inadequately addressed in the penal code and that consensual adult same-sex sexual conduct remained criminalized. It also noted existing laws, customs and practices that discriminated against persons with disabilities.

37. Uruguay noted the progress made in areas such as gender equality and women's rights and encouraged Tuvalu to redouble its efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women and girls.

38. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted positively the national action plan on human rights for 2016 to 2020, the recent establishment of a national human rights institution, and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development for 2016 to 2020, which laid the groundwork for improving the lives of people in the country. It also expressed appreciation for measures taken to improve the health system and the availability of housing.

39. Afghanistan encouraged Tuvalu to strengthen the process of transposing the content of international conventions into national laws and policies.

40. Algeria welcomed the adoption of the Tuvalu national action plan on human rights for 2016 to 2020. It commended Tuvalu for improving health access for the inhabitants of remote islands, for having reduced maternal mortality and for its remarkable achievements in the field of education.

41. *Armenia* expressed appreciation for the adoption of measures such as the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act of 2014 and the national action plan on human rights for 2016 to 2020, and for the effective cooperation with United Nations mechanisms, including the extension of a standing invitation to the Human Rights Council special procedure mandate holders.

42. Australia noted that Tuvalu was working towards ratifying core human rights treaties and their optional protocols. While remaining concerned about violence against

women. Australia welcomed the adoption of the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act of 2014.

43. Brazil congratulated Tuvalu for the adoption of the national action plan on human rights for 2016 to 2020 and of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development for 2016 to 2020, recognizing the major challenges faced by Tuvalu in relation to climate change and natural disaster. Brazil encouraged Tuvalu to fully incorporate the principle of equality of women and men into its Constitution.

44. Canada welcomed the introduction by Tuvalu of a national action plan on human rights, the consolidation of existing human rights treaty obligations and efforts to ensure that human rights continued to be prioritized in government policymaking. Canada commended Tuvalu for implementing the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act in 2014 to provide children and adults with greater protection from domestic violence.

45. Chile was concerned by the application of corporal punishment on children and urged Tuvalu to eliminate that pernicious practice. Chile was of the view that efforts to fight climate change should involve the society as a whole and have a focus on human rights.

46. The Congo welcomed the adoption of the national action plan on human rights for 2016 to 2020, the establishment of a national steering committee on disability and an advisory committee on child rights, and the extension of a standing invitation to the Human Rights Council special procedure mandate holders. The Congo encouraged Tuvalu to finalize its engagement for the ratification of international instruments.

47. Costa Rica congratulated Tuvalu for its adoption of the national action plan on human rights for 2016 to 2020 and the bill to establish a national human rights institution. It urged Tuvalu to continue with the integration of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into national laws and policies. Costa Rica noted the impact that climate change had on the attainment of human rights and that the geographical reality of Tuvalu meant that the country's vulnerability to the effects of climate change was greater than that of countries in other regions of the world.

48. Cuba stated that, as a small island developing State, Tuvalu faced numerous challenges, some of which, such as climate change, posed a direct danger to the very existence of the country. Despite those challenges, the authorities of Tuvalu had made important efforts to promote and protect human rights in the areas of education and health, taking specific measures to maintain the progress made in relation to the rights of young people and women.

49. Denmark highlighted that the Convention against Torture Initiative, which worked through government-to-government exchange and cooperation, stood ready to explore avenues to assist the Government of Tuvalu in making advances on the issue of ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

50. France recognized that Tuvalu had made concrete efforts, such as the adoption of the national human rights action plan, in the field of human rights, despite economic, financial and environmental challenges.

51. Georgia acknowledged efforts made by the Government of Tuvalu to harmonize its domestic legislation with its international obligations and implement recommendations received during the previous review cycle. It welcomed the adoption in 2016 of the human rights national action plan for 2016 to 2020. Georgia noted with satisfaction that the Government of Tuvalu had extended a standing invitation to all thematic special procedure mandate holders.

52. Germany recognized the growing participation of women in the health and education sectors, in politics and in civil society, and acknowledged steps taken, such as the adoption of legislation on domestic violence in 2014. However, it remained concerned about continued discrimination and violence, in particular based on gender. In addition, the failure to ratify core human rights instruments, such as the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, caused further apprehension regarding the safety of marginalized groups.

53. Ghana commended the endorsement by the Government of Tuvalu of several measures to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens and to ensure that the provisions of international human rights instruments were reflected in domestic legislation and policies. It welcomed, in particular, the national action plan on human rights for 2016 to 2020 and the report of the Scoping Study Team on the feasibility and options for the establishment of a national human rights institution. Ghana congratulated Tuvalu for participating in the Convention against Torture Initiative regional seminar held in Fiji in 2016, and commended the Government's commitment to acceding to the Convention against Torture.

54. Guyana congratulated the Government of Tuvalu on the presentation of its comprehensive report for the third cycle of the universal periodic review. It called for the Government to be commended for its efforts in promoting and protecting human rights among its people, as evidenced in the human rights national action plan for 2016 to 2020, which served as a concrete step towards fulfilling the country's international obligations and strengthening national efforts in realizing human rights in Tuvalu. It also commended Tuvalu for the adoption of amendments and legislation to harmonize its domestic laws with its international obligations.

55. Haiti commended the efforts and progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights in Tuvalu, in particular the adoption, in 2016, of the national action plan on human rights for 2016 to 2020, the first plan of its kind in the Pacific; the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development; the improvement in access to health care for the inhabitants of the peripheral islands; the considerable reduction in the maternal mortality rate; and the fight for climate justice on the world stage.

56. Honduras welcomed the important achievements in the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Tuvalu during the previous cycle. It welcomed the process of constitutional review initiated by Tuvalu with the technical support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the willingness to address human rights issues relating to freedom of religion, gender equality, inclusion of marginalized groups and protection of the environment. It commended the commitment and cooperation of Tuvalu with the Human Rights Council in extending an open invitation to the special procedure mandate holders, as well as with the Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

57. Iceland welcomed the adoption of the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act of 2014. It regretted, however, that despite having accepted, during the second review cycle, to increase efforts to swiftly ratify fundamental human rights treaties, that action had yet to be taken.

58. Indonesia noted with appreciation the decision to accept two recommendations made by Indonesia during the second review cycle, regarding the implementation of the Police Powers and Duties Act and efforts to strengthen measures to ensure respect and protection for vulnerable groups, including women and persons with disabilities. Indonesia commended the positive developments in Tuvalu, in particular the adoption of the human rights national action plan for 2016 to 2020 and the Act of 2017 on the national human rights institution. Indonesia also welcomed the initiative to conduct a constitutional review, with UNDP-led technical support, in order to address a number of issues pertaining to freedom of religion, gender equality, the inclusion of marginalized populations and protection of the environment.

59. Iraq commended the amendments and legislation adopted by Tuvalu as a step towards harmonizing its legislation with its international obligations, as well as the human rights national action plan for 2016 to 2020. Iraq encouraged Tuvalu to complete the steps to ratify the Convention against Torture and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

60. The delegation of Tuvalu responded to questions raised by stating that Tuvalu was currently conducting a comprehensive review of its Constitution and that the Government would incorporate into that process considerations regarding accession to, or the signing and ratification of, relevant human rights conventions.

61. The Prime Minister wished to work closely with the Human Rights Council in addressing reporting requirements. Acceding to and ratifying international conventions required extensive work. The Government was fully committed to signing and acceding to the relevant conventions.

62. The Government was working hard with communities to legislate against and repress discrimination based on sex or race, and violence. The Prime Minister was unaware of any provisions in the laws of Tuvalu that explicitly enabled discrimination, and would need to be advised on that matter.

63. With regard to sexual orientation, there were cultural practices that needed to be brought into line with international standards. While that approach differed from traditional Tuvaluan culture, the Government was committed to addressing such issues in a manner that was acceptable and that followed international norms.

64. The views and recommendations expressed to Tuvalu on improving the situation with respect to torture were appreciated, but the Prime Minister was unaware of any torture-related actions in the country. He requested clarification on that issue.

65. The Prime Minister thanked Member States, in particular Cuba and Guyana, for their encouragement regarding measures to address climate change.

66. The Government of Tuvalu had waived all school fees at the primary and secondary levels for all children, including girls.

67. The Government would ratify the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization, and implement it during fourth cycle of the universal periodic review.

68. Tuvalu had championed the concept of human rights action plans not only in the country but also in the Pacific region. It encouraged current initiatives undertaken with relevant domestic stakeholders to promote and protect human rights.

69. Ireland welcomed the adoption in 2016 of the human rights national action plan for 2016 to 2020 and the recent progress made in relation to the creation of a national human rights institution. It encouraged the Government of Tuvalu to expedite the establishment of the institution in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). Ireland recognized the positive recent developments in relation to corporal punishment. It noted that Tuvalu had not become a party to several of the core human rights treaties.

70. Israel noted the country's commitment to the protection and advancement of human rights, as demonstrated in its reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It noted with satisfaction the adoption in 2016 of the human rights national action plan for 2016 to 2020, and encouraged its continued implementation. Israel acknowledged the country's commitment to the fulfilment of the basic needs of its citizens, in the face of severe developmental and climatic challenges.

71. Italy welcomed the commitment of Tuvalu to the universal periodic review and its effort to improve the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. It commended the authorities of Tuvalu for the accession, in 2013, to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It congratulated Tuvalu on the approval of a national action plan for human rights, in 2016, which mainly focused on economic and social rights, such as the rights to education, to health, to food and to water.

72. Jamaica commended Tuvalu for its commitment to improving the quality of life of its citizens, as outlined in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development for 2016 to 2020, including with respect to the right to housing, employment and voting. It also commended Tuvalu on its human rights national action plan for 2016 to 2020, noting that it

was the first plan of its kind in the Pacific. Jamaica further commended Tuvalu for taking full advantage of technical assistance provided by UNDP to address issues related to freedom of religion, gender equality, the inclusion of marginalized populations and protection of the environment. It commended Tuvalu for achieving near universal primary enrolment through its initiative on compulsory free education.

73. Maldives commended Tuvalu on the adoption of the human rights national action plan for 2016 to 2020, and its efforts to consolidate the existing human rights commitments of Tuvalu for the full realization of human rights. It welcomed the National Strategy for Sustainable Development for 2016 to 2020 and the progress towards the achievement of the global goals. It also welcomed the achievement of near universal primary enrolment and the provision of free education for children between the ages of 6 and 16.

74. Mexico recognized that Tuvalu, as a small island country with low coastal areas, needed to constantly address priorities derived from climate change, which could hinder the effective exercise of human rights. It commended Tuvalu for its cooperation with the United Nations system to meet its international obligations. Mexico noted with appreciation concrete action taken in the area of human rights, such as the adoption of the national human rights plan and the national plan for sustainable development, and the beginning of a consultation process aimed at reforming the Constitution. Mexico urged Tuvalu to continue its cooperation with international organizations in order to implement its human rights obligations.

75. Montenegro encouraged Tuvalu to continue cooperating with the United Nations to accede to key international human rights instruments and to review existing legislation to ensure equality and non-discrimination. It regretted that corporal punishment could be used by parents and guardians.

76. Morocco welcomed the commitments of Tuvalu to international standards and cooperation with United Nations bodies. It noted the establishment of a national human rights action plan and policies to promote gender equality and to combat violence against women and domestic violence, as well as policies for persons with disabilities.

77. Nepal commended Tuvalu on its adoption of the Act on the national human rights institution and of a national action plan on human rights, linked to its National Strategy for Sustainable Development, and its protection and promotion of the rights of children and persons with disabilities. Nepal expressed understanding of the constraints that Tuvalu, as a least developed country and a country confronting the adverse effects of climate change, faced when creating a platform for inclusive realization of social, economic and other basic rights for all citizens.

78. The Netherlands welcomed the adoption of the Act on the national human rights institution, and the related action plan, and the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act. However, it noted that discrimination related to gender and sexual orientation existed.

79. New Zealand commended Tuvalu for its commitment to human rights, as set out in the Tuvalu National Human Rights Action Plan 2016–2020, and for the progress made in protecting persons with disabilities since ratifying the relevant international convention.

80. Portugal welcomed the Tuvalu delegation and commended it for adopting the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act of 2014.

81. The Republic of Korea welcomed the cooperation of Tuvalu with human rights mechanisms, including its standing invitation to special rapporteurs, and its national human rights action plan linking human rights promotion and sustainable development goals.

82. Senegal welcomed the Tuvalu National Human Rights Action Plan 2016–2020 and its timely submission of national reports to the relevant treaty bodies. It noted its encouraging primary education results and improved school enrolment.

83. Serbia welcomed the efforts of Tuvalu to implement recommendations from the second cycle of universal periodic review and its standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders. Serbia encouraged Tuvalu to take measures to enhance awareness of women's rights and equal treatment.

84. Singapore commended the Government for the concrete steps, taken since the previous review, to advance the human rights of its people despite significant geographic, financial and human resource constraints. It also commended the recent establishment of a national human rights institution.

85. Slovenia welcomed the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2013, and the efforts Tuvalu had made in the adoption of a national water strategy and a plan of action covering the entire population, in particular those with a lower income.

86. Spain acknowledged the efforts made by Tuvalu to promote and protect human rights, in particular through the adoption of the Tuvalu National Human Rights Action Plan 2016–2020, the first of its kind in the Pacific, and the recent adoption of a bill to establish a national human rights institution.

87. Togo noted that several challenges and constraints, related mainly to the limited resources available and the effects of climate change, had severely undermined the efforts of Tuvalu in implementing the recommendations made during the second cycle and in meeting all commitments for the realization of human rights in the country.

88. Turkey welcomed the adoption of the human rights national action plan for 2016 to 2020 and encouraged the Government to ratify the major international human rights treaties to which it was not yet a party, which would strengthen the domestic legislation with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion and belief.

89. Ukraine recognized the commitment by Tuvalu to human rights protection and promotion and noted the efforts taken by its authorities to improve the institutional and legislative framework for human rights. Ukraine commended the achievements of the Government since the previous review cycle, namely, accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adoption of a national action plan on human rights, the first among the Pacific countries, and the law on establishing a national human rights institution. It also commended the extension of a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

90. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland stated that it was aware of the challenges facing Tuvalu, particularly those relating to climate change and providing services on a small scale, and that it was impressed by the Government's level of consultation with civil society in preparation for the review process. It welcomed the steps taken by Tuvalu towards establishing a national human rights institution and encouraged the Government to make use of the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team, for which the United Kingdom had provided funding.

91. Argentina welcomed the delegation of Tuvalu and thanked it for presenting its report.

92. The Philippines commended Tuvalu for the Tuvalu National Human Rights Action Plan 2016–2020, its strengthening of the Office of the People's Lawyer and its institutionalization of the standard operating procedures for the police. It noted efforts to ratify several international instruments.

93. In its closing remarks, the delegation pointed out that the link between climate change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development meant that without successful achievement of the 2030 Agenda, Tuvalu could not protect and ensure the enjoyment of human rights. Climate change cut across all development factors and actors. Until the vulnerabilities were addressed and the areas of impact established, protecting and enjoying human rights in small island developing States like Tuvalu would be extremely difficult.

94. Tuvalu had consistently called for effective, enhanced and accelerated action on climate change. It had introduced the issue of insurance facilities in the region and at the United Nations to provide small island developing States with better access to insurance products and systems as tools for coping with climate change impacts. It had also advocated for a General Assembly resolution on protection of the human rights of people displaced by climate change and other human-induced national disasters. Current international legal instruments did not provide the protection that climate change refugees deserved.

95. Tuvalu was formulating legislation, deals and policies despite its constraints and limitations. It appreciated the suggestions of States Members of the United Nations, especially those contributing to its development efforts. It noted the importance of visiting rapporteurs and thematic teams.

96. Tuvalu had missions strategically placed throughout the world that, among other things, were established to facilitate conversation with other countries. Tuvalu should not wait four years for its next universal periodic review to exchange information.

97. Tuvalu would progressively ratify human rights conventions, but a cost/benefit analysis informed by relevant stakeholders was required, and the added value for Tuvalu of ratifying those conventions would need to be determined.

98. In human rights terms, the most challenging issue for Tuvalu was climate change; the Government asked the international community to help advance the initiatives presented by its ambassadors to the United Nations and to the European Union.

99. In closing, the Prime Minister stated that the impacts of climate change on island countries continued to threaten the livelihood of their inhabitants, and re-emphasized the need for urgent, concrete action against climate change.

100. Tuvalu was fully committed not only to honouring its human rights obligations to its own people, but also to sharing its experience and supporting similar efforts in the Pacific and other small island developing States.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

101. **The following recommendations will be examined by Tuvalu, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:**

101.1 **Ratify the international human rights instruments it is not party to (Ghana);**

101.2 **Proceed to a rapid ratification of the main international conventions on human rights (France);**

101.3 **Ratify international instruments to which Tuvalu is not yet part of (Togo);**

101.4 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

101.5 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Montenegro);**

101.6 **Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and take steps to raise social awareness and understanding of the rights embodied in the instrument (Canada);**

101.7 **Take steps to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols, and incorporate these obligations into domestic legislation (New Zealand);**

101.8 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Brazil);**

101.9 **Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as soon as possible (Iceland);**

101.10 **Speed up the efforts to ratify other core human rights treaties, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Slovenia);**

101.11 **Accelerate efforts to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ireland);**

101.12 **Increase efforts to swiftly ratify the main international human rights instruments, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Italy);**

101.13 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Montenegro);**

101.14 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto on abolishing the death penalty, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukraine);**

101.15 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Germany);**

101.16 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Australia);**

101.17 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**

101.18 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Armenia); Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Spain); Pursue efforts to ratify international instruments such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Morocco); Consider acceding to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Indonesia);**

101.19 **Consider the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

101.20 **Consider adhering to the main human rights international instruments, namely, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Costa Rica);**

101.21 **Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Afghanistan);**

101.22 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention against Torture (Philippines);**

101.23 **Intensify efforts to ratify remaining major international human rights treaties, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Georgia);**

101.24 Ratify promptly the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Uruguay);

101.25 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Denmark);

101.26 Accede and ratify the human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, in particular the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption (Honduras);

101.27 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Iraq);

101.28 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Afghanistan);

101.29 Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

101.30 Ratify the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

101.31 Introduce in the Constitution the prohibition against discrimination based on gender and on sexual orientation, at the same level as racial and religious discrimination (France);

101.32 Finalize constitutional changes with an aim to strengthen the non-discrimination clause on a gender and disability basis and take further steps towards empowering them (Georgia);

101.33 That the current constitutional review seek to clarify the principle of equality of women and men (Guyana);

101.34 Proceed with the establishment of an independent national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Algeria);

101.35 Expedite the establishment of the national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Ghana) (Nepal) (Spain) (Turkey);

101.36 Take further steps in implementing the National Human Rights Institution Act 2017 towards the full establishment of a national human rights institution that is in full conformity with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);

101.37 Establish the national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Portugal);

101.38 Accelerate its efforts in establishing the national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);

101.39 Establish an ombudsman as a mechanism for reception of complaints on human rights violations by State agents (Philippines);

101.40 Establish a national mechanism for reporting and monitoring of its human rights obligations (Honduras);

101.41 Make every effort to ensure appropriate mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the human rights national action plan for 2016 to 2020 (Jamaica);

101.42 **Continue to resource and progress implementation of its action plan to strengthen the implementation of its international human rights obligations (New Zealand);**

101.43 **Consider the establishment or strengthening of the existing national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up, in line with elements arising from good practices identified in the 2016 OHCHR guide on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (Portugal);**

101.44 **Establish a special national body aimed at regular reporting on measures taken by the national authorities in implementing the Human Rights Council's recommendations (Serbia);**

101.45 **Ensure an adequate institutional framework and the resources to fully implement the Tuvalu National Human Rights Action Plan 2016–2020 (Singapore);**

101.46 **Consider the establishment and implementation of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up with a view to a constructive and systematic cooperation with the human rights protection system of the United Nations (Togo);**

101.47 **Allocate sufficient budget and human resources to fully implement the Tuvalu National Human Rights Action Plan 2016–2020 (Philippines);**

101.48 **Continue efforts to promote human rights by strengthening the national legislative framework (Morocco);**

101.49 **Adopt policy and legal measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);**

101.50 **Repeal provisions of the penal code that criminalize adult consensual same-sex sexual conduct (United States of America);**

101.51 **Review legislation and amend or repeal any law that discriminates on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, or any other ground, in accordance with the principles of equality and non-discrimination (Uruguay);**

101.52 **Prohibit by law all forms of discrimination, particularly those based on sex or disability (Algeria);**

101.53 **Amend or repeal all sex-related discriminatory legislation and legislation criminalizing consensual same-sex relations to ensure consistency with the principles of equality and non-discrimination (Australia);**

101.54 **Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex (Honduras);**

101.55 **Repeal all provisions that criminalize consensual same-sex conduct and ensure that anti-discrimination laws cover sexual orientation (Iceland);**

101.56 **Repeal provisions of the Criminal Code that criminalize consensual sexual relation between adults of the same sex (Spain);**

101.57 **Modify or repeal all laws that discriminate on the ground of sexual orientation or gender identity pursuant to the principle of equality and non-discrimination enshrined in international human rights law (Spain);**

101.58 **Consider repealing provisions that outlaw sexual relations between consenting male adults (Italy);**

101.59 **Repeal all provisions that criminalize consensual same-sex conduct and ensure that anti-discrimination laws cover sexual orientation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

101.60 **Take measures as necessary to remove from the criminal code the offence of consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex (Argentina);**

101.61 **Amend sections 153–155 of the Penal Code to decriminalize same-sex conduct between consenting adults, as well as prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Canada);**

101.62 **Accelerate efforts to incorporate into its legislation at all levels, including at the constitutional level, provisions that prohibit discrimination based on sex, gender and disability (Mexico);**

101.63 **Continue to take steps to actively promote the equal rights of all individuals regardless of gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, age, disability or other status, including by ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (New Zealand);**

101.64 **Integrate principles of non-discrimination and equality of women and men into education policies, the national core curriculum and related documents, as well as into basic and continuing education for teachers and health-care professionals and other service providers (Iceland) (Portugal);**

101.65 **Undertake further measures regarding the remaining key areas where improvements need to be made, most notably in relation to vulnerable groups of populations, in particular women, persons with disabilities and children (Ukraine);**

101.66 **Repeal all discriminatory provisions included in the land code (Congo);**

101.67 **Proceed with the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and the Tuvalu National Human Rights Action Plan 2016–2020 (Israel);**

101.68 **Strengthen the gender equality perspective in sustainable development policies (Iraq);**

101.69 **Continue to implement climate change mitigation policies to avoid impacts on the fundamental rights of Tuvaluans (Haiti);**

101.70 **Continue implementing policies and programmes aimed at the mitigation of the effects of climate change, taking into consideration a focus on human rights (Costa Rica);**

101.71 **Continue promoting in the international sphere the right to a healthy environment, and the fight against climate change (Cuba);**

101.72 **Assess on a regular basis the impact of climate change and natural disasters on the full enjoyment of human rights by the poor and low-income population, with a view to supporting victims of such disasters (Ghana);**

101.73 **Periodically assess the impact of climate change and natural disasters on the enjoyment of human rights by the poor and support efforts to build their resilience to such disasters (Jamaica);**

101.74 **Redouble efforts with a view to formulating, in coordination with regional organizations and the United Nations, a plan for the management and mitigation of natural disasters that takes into consideration the situation of migrant children and the potential massive displacement of the population (Mexico);**

101.75 **That the Office of the People's Lawyer could be strengthened with the necessary financial, human and technical resources to enable effective representation of those in need of legal aid (Guyana);**

101.76 **That measures could be taken to address perceived restrictions to the freedom of religion (Guyana);**

101.77 **Take measures to fully guarantee freedom of religion or belief, including by addressing concerns from minority religious groups over limitations on their activities in the outer islands (Canada);**

101.78 **Ensure the meaningful participation of all citizens of Tuvalu dispersed in the archipelago in the current process of constitutional revision (Honduras);**

101.79 **Take the necessary measures to modernize Tuvalu's maritime infrastructure, with a view to creating better jobs in the formal sector (Haiti);**

101.80 **Develop initiatives aiming to guarantee access to water and sanitation for all (France);**

101.81 **Pursue efforts to eradicate poverty (Senegal);**

101.82 **Explore all appropriate options to improve access to affordable and adequate health care for citizens on the outer islands, particularly women (Jamaica);**

101.83 **Strengthen human and financial resources of health-care services to enable them to better serve disadvantaged segments of the population (Senegal);**

101.84 **Introduce new dietary practices to reduce obesity (Haiti);**

101.85 **Assign human and financial resources in order to strengthen universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, in particular for women and girls on the outer islands, who are not adequately equipped, with trained midwives and nurses to attend to maternal health and attend to the complications of deliveries (Honduras);**

101.86 **Continue to make efforts to guarantee the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, particularly by ensuring access to health services to all persons living in the country, particularly by installing health centres on the outer islands (Brazil);**

101.87 **Improve health-care infrastructure, access to emergency obstetric care, midwife training, and resources devoted to maternal health (Ghana);**

101.88 **Continue strengthening the programmes and social policies in the areas of education, health and food, paying special attention to the sectors of the population that are most in need (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

101.89 **Continue strengthening programmes to promote employment and assistance for vulnerable groups in the fight against poverty and social exclusion (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

101.90 **That the right to education should be treated similarly to other rights in the Constitution (Guyana);**

101.91 **Redouble efforts to increase the quality of education and guarantee the right to education for all, without exclusion (Haiti);**

101.92 **Step up the efforts to improve education infrastructure, in particular basic sanitary facilities (Republic of Korea);**

101.93 **Reform the Penal Code to criminalize marital rape and continue to address customs and social patterns that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls (Canada);**

101.94 **Adopt comprehensive measures, including legislative measures, to prevent and address all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence (Uruguay);**

101.95 **Adopt comprehensive legislative measures to prevent and address all forms of violence against women and girls, and ensure that victims of violence have access to means of redress and protection, and perpetrators are brought to account (Republic of Korea);**

101.96 **Adopt legislative and other measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic and sexual violence (Spain);**

101.97 **Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services for all women and girls (Uruguay);**

101.98 **Prioritize the full implementation of the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act of 2014, including by ensuring that women and girl survivors of violence have access to effective means of redress and protection and by raising societal awareness about the content of the Act (Netherlands);**

101.99 **Implement the measures identified in the human rights national action plan to address violence against women, including through community education, police training and stronger recording processes (Australia);**

101.100 **Develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce violence against women, including domestic violence, particularly on the outer islands, by enhancing women's awareness of their rights and identifying ways to combat such violence (Turkey);**

101.101 **Take advantage of the new electoral law to work towards increased participation of women in politics (France);**

101.102 **Promote equality and empowerment of women, particularly in regard to hereditary and custody rights, and strengthen measures against domestic violence (Germany);**

101.103 **Take further measures to protect women and children against all forms of violence (Italy);**

101.104 **Ensure efficient follow-up to the recommendations given by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Israel);**

101.105 **Take effective measures to promote gender equality and women's empowerment (Nepal);**

101.106 **Review and subsequently amend or repeal legislation entailing gender-based discrimination, including provisions in the Penal Code 1978 and the Marriage Act (Netherlands);**

101.107 **Amend the Penal Code and the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act in order to criminalize rape in all circumstances (Portugal);**

101.108 **Ensure that a gender perspective is integrated into all climate change and disaster risk reduction policies, bearing in mind that disasters not only disproportionately affect women and girls but also exacerbate existing economic and social inequality across gender (Republic of Korea);**

101.109 **Continue to fight all forms of discrimination, in particular against women (Senegal);**

101.110 **Fully implement the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act 2014, with the necessary technical assistance of the relevant United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNDP where appropriate, expeditiously operationalize the Family Protection Fund, and dedicate the necessary resources to ensure that the family protection and domestic violence baseline study conducted by the office of the Attorney General is comprehensive so as to strengthen the ongoing work to eliminate violence against women in Tuvalu (Singapore);**

101.111 **Work towards the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in order to guarantee effective participation of women in all aspects of decision-making (Spain);**

101.112 Repeal all discriminatory laws against women which are contrary to the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular inequality in access to property rights and the underrepresentation of women in public and political life (Togo);

101.113 Take steps necessary to do away with patriarchal and gender-based stereotypes, which lead to perpetuation of discrimination against women (Argentina);

101.114 Prohibit corporal punishment for disciplining children both at home and in any other area of the society (Uruguay);

101.115 Adopt public policies aiming at the eradication of violence against children, including legal measures to prohibit corporal punishment both in school and in the family (Chile);

101.116 Criminalize child pornography and ensure the law criminally prohibits: procuring, offering, providing, obtaining or using children for prostitution and/or for the production of pornography, or other illicit activities, as well as prohibits the distribution, dissemination, sale and possession of child pornography (United States of America);

101.117 Step up efforts to reduce the mortality rate among children under 5 (Congo);

101.118 That the legislation be amended to ensure equal rights for both parents for children born out of wedlock (Guyana);

101.119 Make further efforts to register all children born on all islands (Haiti);

101.120 Continue its efforts in strengthening the capacity of the Tuvalu Police Force and the Office of the Attorney General in applying child-sensitive justice procedures (Indonesia);

101.121 Continue to work towards the abolition of corporal punishment in all settings, and that awareness-raising campaigns about the negative impact of corporal punishment on the development of children are undertaken (Ireland);

101.122 Continue to strengthen legislative measures by remedying protection gaps to protect all children from both violence and abuse, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Maldives);

101.123 Adopt legislative measures to fully align the juvenile justice system with the relevant international standards, including by repealing the provisions that allow corporal punishment (Mexico);

101.124 Adopt a comprehensive child policy based on the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Togo);

101.125 Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of children and persons with disabilities (Nepal);

101.126 Take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities (United States of America);

101.127 Explore all appropriate options to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, building on existing platforms and with appropriate assistance from the international community (Jamaica).

102. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Tuvalu was headed by The Right Honourable Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of the Government of Tuvalu and composed of the following members:

- Madame Salilo Enele Sopoaga, Prime Minister's Spouse Observer;
- H.E. Aunese Makoi Simati, Ambassador to Belgium;
- H.E. Samuelu Laloniu, Permanent Representative to the United Nations;
- Ms. Laingane Italeli Talia, Acting Attorney General;
- Mr. Filipo Masaurua, Technical Advisor;
- Mr. Efren Jogia, Senior Crown Counsel;
- Ms. Melissa Menefise Ako, Crown Counsel;
- Ms. Teresa Drecala, Child Protection Manager;
- Ms. Solonaima Fioiata Vaguna, Professional Assistant;
- Ms. Loisi Seluka Kenieti, Acting Assistant Secretary for Finance;
- Ms. Lanuola Fasiai, Acting Director for Gender Affairs Department;
- Mr. Soseala Tinilau, Director of Environment;
- Ms. Pepetua Election Latasi, Director of Climate Change and Disaster Unit;
- Mr. Penivao Penete, PM's Bodyguard.